

RM
aff

Desert

MAGAZINE of the SOUTHWEST

MAY, 1962

40c

A color photograph of two women standing in a vast field of orange and yellow wildflowers, likely California poppies. They are holding hands and smiling. The woman on the left wears a pink and white striped dress, and the woman on the right wears a blue top and shorts with a red headscarf. In the background, there are green hills and mountains under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

Wildflowers on the Mojave
Complete Guide Map In This Issue

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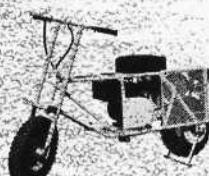
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In the late 1950s while stationed at San Bernardino, Calif., Air Force Colonel Jack Novak traveled the desert country extensively, pursuing his hobby of photography. He visited ghost towns, followed wildflower leads, camped in little-frequented corners of the desert, got Indians to pose for him, attended rodeos (he described the photo at right as a "lucky shot"), and generally saw—and photographed—all there was to see in Southwest America.

Col. Novak put his color slides together into an award-winning photographic-essay which he called, "The Fascinating Desert." And then came re-assignment. He was transferred to NATO Air Headquarters at Fontainebleau, France.

Let Col. Novak tell the rest of this story:

Shortly after moving to France, I was asked to



Desert

Volume 25

Number 5

CONTENTS FOR MAY, 1962

This Month's Cover—

Barring a mid-spring cold snap, the High Desert should have a good cover of wildflowers in late April and May (see page 20). Some localities are expecting a profusion of bloom reminiscent of the "great flower years" of 1938, 1949 and 1958, and it is more than likely that the color photographer will be able to bring home pictures like the one on this month's cover, taken in a poppy field near Arvin, Calif., by Hulbert Burroughs.

Nature on Display—

- | | |
|--|------------------|
| 20 A Guide to Mojave Desert Wildflowers | LUCILE WEIGHT |
| 29 Desert Color King: Vermilion Flycatcher | EDMUND C. JAEGER |

Special Report—

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 22 The Trail Scooter: Little Machine's Big Impact | V. LEE OERTLE |
| 24 Fifteen Models to Choose From | |
| 26 Do They Belong On Public Lands? | ERLE STANLEY GARDNER |

People and Places—

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 3 The Desert's Ambassador to Europe | EUGENE L. CONROTT |
| 5 A Family Treasure Hunt in Goldfield | FRANK JENSEN |
| 12 Harold Leibler—Navajoland Missionary | H. N. FERGUSON |
| 14 Arizona Ranch School | ED AINSWORTH |
| 16 Western Artist Olaf Wieghorst | |

Other Features

- | | |
|--|--------------------|
| 8 Desert Detours | OREN ARNOLD |
| 9 Letters From Our Readers | |
| 10 Desert Gardening in May | DAN LEE |
| 11 New Ideas for Desert Living | CHARLES E. SHELTON |
| 33 New and Interesting Southwest Books | |
| 36 May Events in the Southwest | RANDALL HENDERSON |
| 37 Just Between You and Me | |

show the program. As some of the people in the audience would not understand English, it was decided to translate the show into French. Our daughter, Lani, had been going to a French school, *Jeanne d'Arc Institution*, so she helped with the tape recording task. With the show now in two languages, the audience grew to include a greater variety of the seven nationalities represented at NATO Headquarters. Inevitably some French editors saw or heard about the story and asked that several photographs and some text be provided for an article in their publications. Thus the story came to be printed in the French magazine, *Sciences et Voyages*, which is their modest version of *National Geographic*.

Things seemed to snowball after that. A new German publication, *Das Tier*, learned about the story of the desert, and I was advised to contact the editor, Prof. Dr. B. Grzimek, in Frankfurt, Germany. I had seen many of Dr. Grzimek's photographs of African wild animals. He is also the Director of the Zoological Garden in Frankfurt. He speaks good English and is an energetic and most interesting person.

His love of animals and photography made a most natural atmosphere for our first meeting, during which we discussed such widely varying topics as his writings and plagiarism of his material by communist countries.

Dr. Grzimek notified me that my desert story would be translated again, this time into German for *Das Tier*. It appeared in the April issue of the magazine, which is distributed to magazine stands in every country in Europe.

There are many interesting sidelights to the story of bringing the American Desert to Europe; however one of the most intriguing features is learning the different idioms and ways of translating particular common sayings from the English text.

For example: at one point in my story I emphasize that our desert has its own way of saying that life is worth living, that life is best when things are not taken for granted. Translated into French, the passage came out as follows:

"Une chose est certaine, une regle reste valable; tout qui est originaire du desert a sa maniere a soi de proclamer que la vie vaut la peine d'etre vecue, que la vie la plus belle est celle qui n'est pas facile, et ou les alouettes ne tombent pas toutes roties."

continued on next page

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CHARLES E. SHELTON
Publisher

EUGENE L. CONROTT
Editor

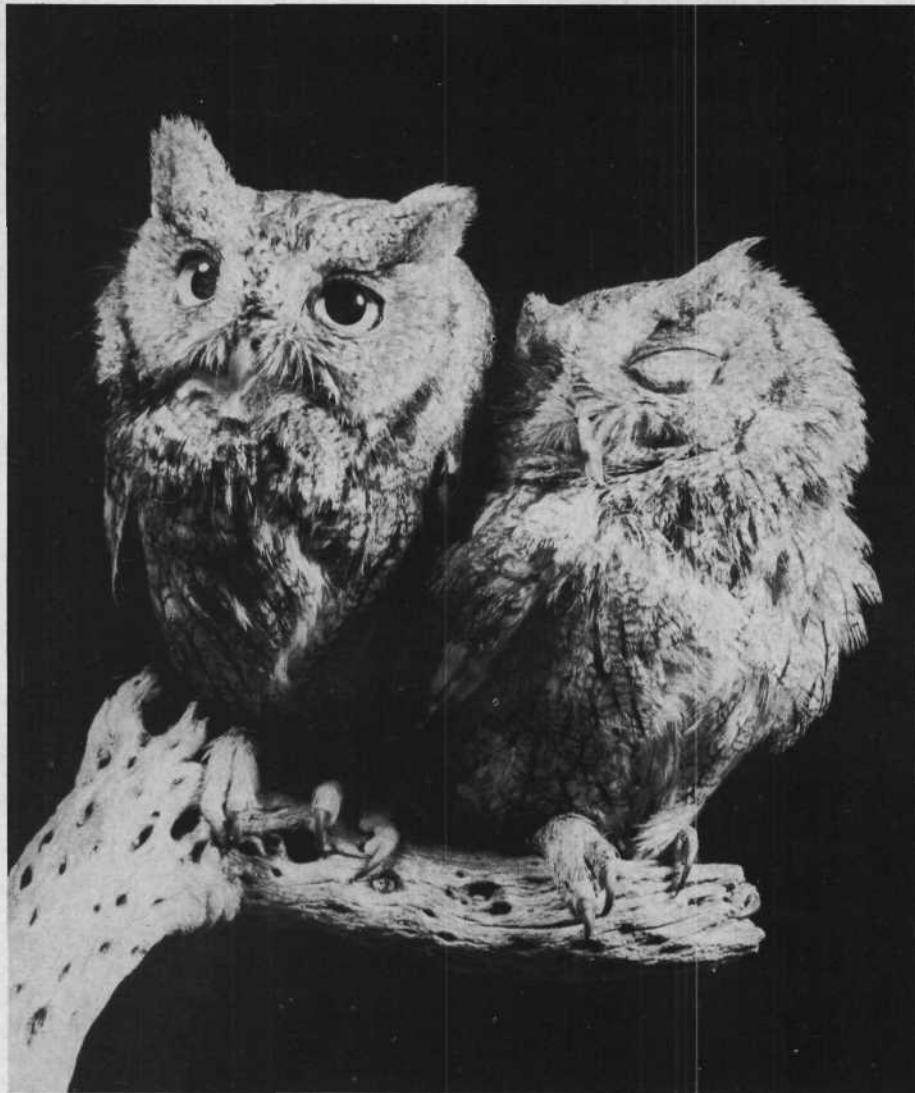
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THE DESERT WEST IN EUROPE

continued from preceding page



Novak titled this picture: "Two Little Screeches"

Particularly interesting is the reference to "les alouettes" or *larks*.

"How," I asked the French translator, "does one come up with the reference to the lark in the passage about life being worth living when things are not taken for granted?"

His reply illustrates the dramatic and romantic ways of the French language. The lark is a difficult bird to shoot, yet is very tasty and thus a cherished game bird trophy—thus, in French: "Life is most beautiful when it is not easy or when the larks do not fall (from the heaven) already cooked." (The full French idiom adds: "... and fall into your mouth already cooked.")

At another point in the English text, my narrative reads:

"Is there not a lesson to be gained from our fantastic and fascinating desert? Life is not the proverbial Bowl of Cherries that we would all like it to be. In accepting the adversities that life holds in store for us it may be well to recall the desert from time to time. Perhaps it will help to make life a little more worth living. Overlook unhappiness, preview the world a brave new look."

Again the French is interesting, for my "Bowl of Cherries" comes out "*la proverbi-*

ale rose sans épine." In other words, "life is not the proverbial rose without thorns." The passage about presenting the world a brave new look appears: "*Dominer les misères, regarder bravement le monde d'un œil nouveau.*"—thus we must look at the world bravely with a new eye.

Actually we have had an enjoyable time with the various associations and friendly relationships that have grown out of what might be termed a Crusade in Europe for the revelation of the USA's Desert Southwest. Our daughter, Lani, has introduced the slide showings when they are done in French. Her accent and pronunciation is flawless (at least so far as her mother and father can tell) and she has always drawn a great hand of applause following her introductions.

At this point she introduces her father to the audience. In my more Americanized version of French I have added that the best way for them all to see the desert for themselves is to take lots of U.S. dollars and travel to America, adding that this would also make President Kennedy happy—a point that always seems to tickle a funny bone. Whereupon everyone laughs and we're off to view Death Valley, the desert flowers, the animals and birds and clouds and far vistas. //

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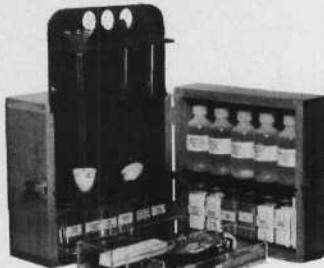
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FLASHFLOOD HITS GOLDFIELD



1962: Great Place For A Family 'Treasure' Hunt

Recently we visited Goldfield, Nevada, spending a sunny weekend looking for "treasure" in the town's main wash. Down this wide gulch on the violent 13th day of September, 1913, ripped a flashflood that killed two persons, crumbled scores of houses and business buildings, and carried before it all manner of personal property. Included in the still-buried loot according to "legend" are a couple of safes, jewelry, cookie jars full of gold coin, fat purses, plus a sampling of everything else the well-appointed 1913 Western boom town home and store might have contained.

Let me hasten to add that our 1962 treasure hunt netted us nothing that would bring a nickle in a respectable junk store; all we brought home were a couple of old bottles that had turned purple.

But, we met some fine people, we experienced the adventure that is always a part of Western relic hunting, and, of course, we once again enjoyed the sleepy hulk of Goldfield — once a much-alive city of 30,000, today a highway town of 300 midway between Las Vegas and Reno.

The Big Flood of '13 leveled a good part of the town, but even on the high ground where the water did not scour there is interesting litter. The rusting cans and glassware have shapes different from those we see today; there are old-time labels to read; the ground in most places is a colorful mosaic of rust and broken glass.

Hidden among the low bushes are iron bedsteads, wash tubs, pails, square tins,

coffee pots, frying pans, cups and spoons. Thirty-thousand is a lot of people, and apparently the Goldfield garbage collector earned no commendations from the city council.

Goldfield-1962 has a couple of eating places, service stations, motel and gift shops. Campers are welcome to stop over at Rabbit Spring where the city has a well. There is no shade at the Spring. No one will bother you if you make a dry camp in town.

The amount of destruction suffered by some of the old buildings is appalling, and old age is not the only cause. Many visitors have ripped out floors and walls searching for valuables that they by some strange failing of mind believe were left behind by the long-departed families.

Some of the mining works are off limits, and are so posted. The good people of Goldfield can tell you where you can and can't prowl.

And these people usually have a good story to tell in connection with a town landmark—like the rock jail on the south bank of the flashflood wash. The jail was built by a stonemason known as Old Gallagher who, upon completing his project, walked down to Main Street for a little celebrating.

Old Gallagher became very drunk and boisterous. "No *#*&%\$* can break out of my jail," he was saying as the police arrived. He became the first man to test the truth of his own words.—Eugene L. Conrotto

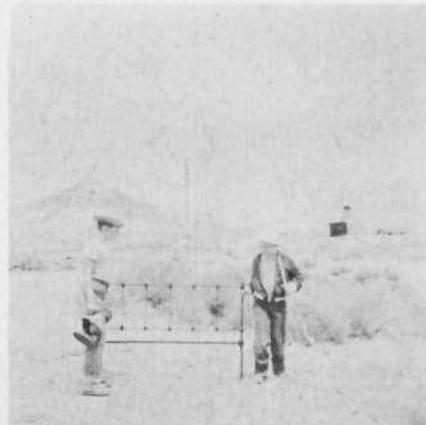
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Goldfield

(continued)



Duane Conrotto (at right in all except photo below) and his friend Scott Barrett have fun in Goldfield. With all the debris strewn about the old town, it is a natural habitat for boys. The trunk (photo above) was empty, but the boys did find some good nails with their metal detector at the ruins of the Goldfield Depot (photo at right). They also attended "open house" (lower left) and found a bed's remains in the weeds (lower right).



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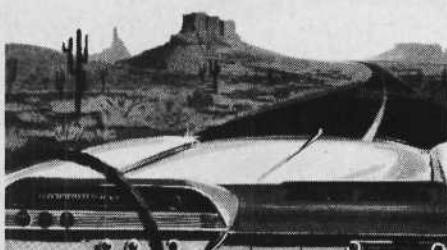
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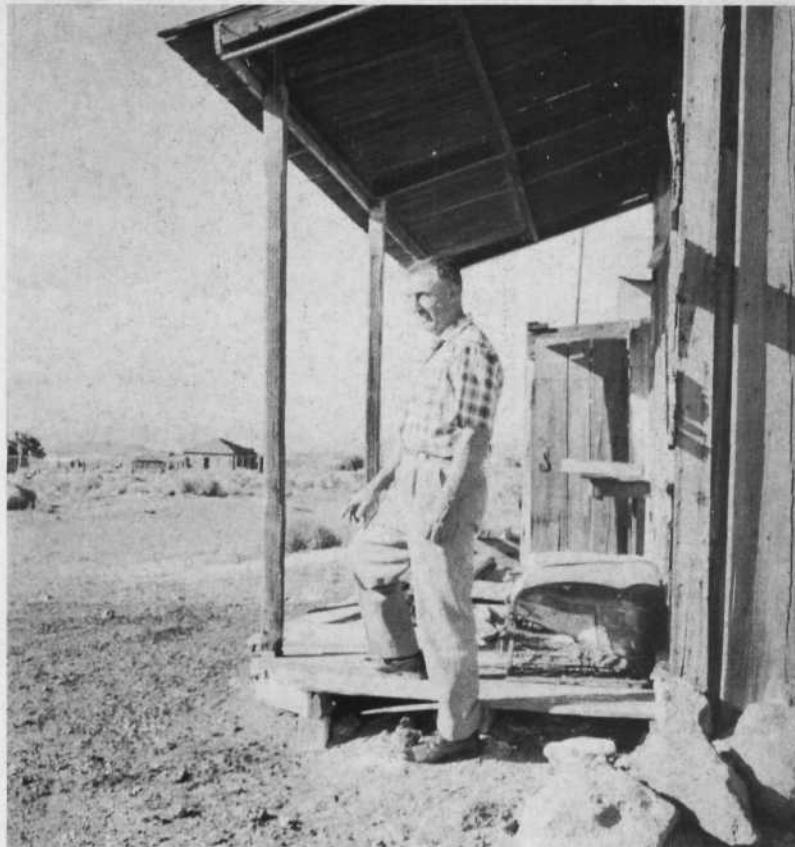
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Goldfield

(continued)



Alex Labarthe (photo above)
stands on the steps of the Goldfield
Laundry (see photo on page 5)
which his father and uncle once
operated. Labarthe's first memory
in life is of the big flood which
struck Goldfield when he was three
years old. Pete Moser (photo at
left) has a safe taken from the
Goldfield wash. Scott and Duane
(lower left) display the relics found
on their weekend treasure hunt,
and Jeanne Conrotto (lower right)
examines a purse which contained
only a 50-year-old newspaper
clipping. //





desert detours

by Oren Arnold

"Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while." Mark 6:31

The merrie, merrie month of May is transition moment for the desert. May 1 is cool and perfect, June 1 is hot. The reversal comes in October. And there's a rightness about it all; a divine planning. This would be a dull, dull world indeed if it had no such cycles; monotony is the dearth of life.

The gramma grass is high, the topknot quail are running, the shy gray doves are adorning every limb. It's a month to ride Out—"out from the things that cry and clamor, and beat on the heart with an iron hammer." Graze your horse while you slip off your shoes and let desert sand trickle through your toes. Lean on the lee side of a granite boulder and gaze up at the desert's cerulean sky. Ulcers, worries, anxieties and fears? You'll lose them! May is for play.

But the benevolent warmth is coming. "Got so hot and dry out here last June," Desert Steve Ragsdale once told me, "we had to staple stamps to letters. Had a funeral, and had to prime the mourners." Steve was exaggerating, of course; it's really quite moist in Desert Center where he lives. One year they got nearly two inches of rainfall.

"Tain't *what* you find in the desert backcountry that's important," avers Bud Toolan, "It's *who*. Only the hardy, kindly, generous folk can endure out here."

But this being Spring, let's discuss girls. I approve of girls, especially the desert-flower species with fleshy cotyledons and pinkish picotee. This species eschews sophistication in favor of sincerity. I heard about one male rockhound who got took to the hospital. And there comes his wife—an urban species with straight-line lips and reticulated skin. "I got too intimate with *Opuntia Phaeacantha*," he told her, accur-

ately, whereupon she clouted him. She mistook that for a girl's name, even though he tried to explain that it was just a thorny prickly pear. The moral is—girls are dangerous, even inferentially. Conduct yourselves accordingly, gentlemen.

I never look at the "barren worthless" desert area without thinking of Walter Tolleson. Back around 1900 Walt chartered a train and rode a bunch of folk out 10 miles from Phoenix, welcomed them with a brass band, fed them free barbecue, even gave each one a \$5 gold piece—in order to sell them desert land. That first day 80 lots were sold—and there today stands the prosperous town of Tolleson. First requisite of successful desert living—imagination; second requisite—courage.

There's to be a new desert "Brenda cutoff" highway across Arizona. It hurts many old friends in the Wickenburg area, so there has been some gnashing of teeth. But it's no worse than the great bulging freeways in town, folks; the massive things that uproot homes and stores. It's a curse of population explosion, a cost of growth.

I write books, and one of my editors came to visit me. I must have yakked the fellow to distraction. When he left, he said, "Arnold, an Arizonan is a person with too much heat, too much dust, too much tan, and too much crust."

What I'm looking for at my desert hacienda is a fallout shelter that can be converted into a swimming pool, and vice versa, at the touch of an electric switch.

"Any American man," says Cal Conway at Calexico, "is free to choose his own form of government—brunette, redhead, or blonde."

The world's largest Indian hospital and high school, and the only accredited nursing school exclusively for Indians, was built and is flourishing not in some western city, but smack on the desert at a spot called Ganado, Arizona. Opportunity? It awaits you under every rock and around the curve of every hill out here! One man saw it at Ganado—Clarence Salsbury, a dedicated medical missionary. Clarence had one over-all trait—he never *asked* his mission board for financial help, he built the buildings then sent in the bills! It worked.

"Just one branch of just one Nevada cactus has more thorns than the national debt has dimes," alleges a Californian who visited over there recently. "Statistically, the total number of thorns on all the cacti in Nevada is 940,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,5

"That point 5 is the half of the one remaining after I backed into a cholla near the campfire last Sunday."

Two types of people on our desert can tell you there are better places to be than where you are: preachers, and real estate agents.

My new book for little people, *The Chili Pepper Children* (Broadman Press) caused a family of New Yorkers to uproot themselves and move to the Mexican border last Fall, "to find the romance and the wonderful people you spoke of." They weren't disappointed; indeed, they in turn have lured four other families out. We'll make ghost towns on Manhattan Island yet.

What the New Yorkers generally don't know is that a visitor to the Southwestern desert enjoys about 35 percent more sunshine each year than do the visitors to "sunny" Florida.

A thief backed a truck up to the isolated desert home of my beloved friend John _____ recently and stole everything he owned. John is a health seeker.

We friends decided not to form a posse, not to judge. But you'll be judged, thief, you'll be judged! We have already outfitted John better than before, so we are twice blest. Meanwhile, five of his neighbors have bought long-range rifles.

So I suppose this is a warning, on the local scale somewhat like America's warning to Russia on the international scale. We'll take a lot of mistreatment, but heaven help the thief when we do arise. John's neighbors now are grim. I think America is too. //

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LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

Turn Coat? . . .

To the Editor: In the March '62 article, "Transformed Desert," George Ringwald devotes a couple of paragraphs to an interview with Dr. C. E. Smith, director of the Palm Springs Desert Museum.

Ringwald begins with the words "a while back"—evidently referring to an interview with Smith that was published in the Riverside *Enterprise* about two years ago. This story was titled, "Desert Museum Goes High Class," and in it Smith referred to the "dirty denim crowd" which was being supplemented by the mink-clad museum goers.

Now, behold—in the *DESERT* article, Smith is referring to the "khaki clad" desert rats (unwashed, that is).

Has he switched fabrics because denim has lately moved into the high fashion quarters? Is denim now too "gentle" a fabric to mention as being worn by the desert folk?

MRS. RUTH HERDER
San Bernardino, Calif.

A Comfortable Ride . . .

To the Editor: This old desert rat has ridden a power scooter over our rocky roads, and finds it too rough a ride. Does someone make a mini-bike with shock ab-

sorbers and a soft bicycle seat? I've waited a year to see if one of that sort is advertised. Or how about a three-wheeler for old roads and slow going?

HARRY LUTTRELL
Castle Hot Springs, Ariz.

(The young power scooter industry is refining its product, and a more comfortable ride probably will emerge. However, the comfort extras add weight which is not desirable, for it is sometimes necessary to manhandle a machine over rough terrain.—Ed.)

Mining Claim—Keep Out . . .

To the Editor: While exploring some of the washes and back areas, I frequently come upon mines and claims with "No Trespassing" and "Keep Out" signs that look like they have been around for years. How can I determine whether or not I may legally enter these areas?

DAVIS HUTCHINSON
Northridge, Calif.

(Only by checking the tax rolls is it possible to determine the legal status of the public domain land in question. Patented mining land is private property. But should the mine or claim in question be on unpatented land, and should it appear that no assessment work has been done on the property for several years, then it can be reasonably assumed that the claim and its "Keep Out" signs are no longer valid. In no case is a sign valid that is posted at some distance from the claim site. The present trend in mining procedure is to grant only mineral rights to the claimholder; the surface rights are more and more being retained by the government.—Ed.)

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Desert Garden Guide

— THINGS TO DO IN MAY



Trees

Acacia, Alder, Ash, Athel (*Tamarix aphylla*), Bottlebrush, Bottletree, Carob, Eucalyptus, Mississippi hackberry (especially good in inland and desert areas), Jacaranda, Mulberry (fruitless), some types of oak—the list of flowering trees and shrubs that can be grown in the Southwest is endless. Beech trees will do well in higher elevations. The best guide to what will grow well in your locality is your local nurseryman. If alkaline soil is treated with peat or sulphur, many uncommon desert trees can be grown here.

Best time to plant is early spring or fall, but early May is still not too late on the Low Desert. If tree has not been pruned at the nursery, you should trim off half the branches to compensate for root loss.

Newly planted trees should be watered weekly, and young trees should be fertilized with liquid fertilizer (10-6-4 or 10-5-5) during the growing season—one pound per inch of trunk diameter. May and June are good months for pruning and shaping new trees.

Older trees should be fed (three pounds per trunk inch) when leaves are coming out, and again in early fall.

Shrubs will need deep watering according to weather conditions, and moisture in soil.

Fruit trees should be sprayed after most of the blossoms have fallen.



Perennials

Low Desert: May is the last chance to set out plants or shrubs from containers. Water well.

High Desert: Spray and dust for aphids. Feed lawns and roses. Fall blooming perennials for planting may be purchased at local nurseries, but as a rule will not bloom until the following year.

Nevada, Utah and Northern Arizona: Spray or dust roses. Fertilize all plants that show need.

Lawns

Bermuda grass and Zoysia grasses are suitable in all desert areas with the exception of Utah and Northern Nevada where Merion bluegrass will do better. Best time to start a new lawn is now, or wait until early fall. Keep seedlings moist until well established, then water as necessary. Sandy soil may require watering every four or five days. Use a complete fertilizer (12-6-6)—15 to 20 pounds per thousand square feet — apply when grass is planted and again about a month before the first frost.

Bermuda and Zoysia grasses will need an extra pound of nitrogen per thousand square feet each month during the growing season. Using a good balanced fertilizer is the best way to combat lawn moths and crab-grass. Water immediately after applying fertilizer to avoid burning the tender leaves.

It may be necessary to apply DDT plus toxaphene this month to rid established lawns of cutworms and other detrimental insects.



Annuals

Annuals require sunshine and a good loam soil. May is the time to add peat or humus to poor soil.

Low Desert: May is the last chance to sow seeds for flowers and vegetables, or for transplanting. Be sure to fertilize everything and water deeply and consistently.

High Desert: A busy month for the gardener. Plant seeds of annuals and vegetables, transplant tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, etc.

Nevada, Utah and Northern Arizona: Plant seeds and summer bulbs now, or transplant seedlings — danger of frost is over. Spray gladioli for thrips when shoots are three inches high.



Natives

May and June are time of repose for most natives, but you can still give established plants a long drink if your garden drainage is good. But, remember: too much water can kill desert natives just as surely as can drought.

NEW IDEAS for DESERT LIVING

By DAN LEE



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Feather-Light Ice Chests—

Made of expanded plastic foam, a new line of ice chests called *Life-Like* are the lightest units I've ever tested. Prices start at a low \$3.95. They'll keep foods either hot or cold, as you desire, up to 10 hours, so long as the lid remains tightly closed. Ice lasts several days by actual test, even in hot weather. Foam insulation is excellent. Handy for picnicking, camping out, or for transporting frozen foods home from the grocery store. For local source: Dept. D, *Life-Like Products*, 1620 Union Ave., Baltimore 11, Maryland.

New Combination Stove—

Called the *Raemco 7-in-1 Stove*, this new unit actually burns wood, coal, charcoal and briquets—all in the same housing. Constructed of heavy-gauge steel, the *Raemco* has folding oven, broiling grilles, frying griddle, side trays, and a kitchenful of accessories. Total weight is only 30 pounds, and the *Raemco* folds into a compact 19x10x9½-inch carrying case with built-in handles. With this stove you can combine both cooking and heating, and burn a wide variety of fuels. Handy for desert camp or cabin, and for the home patio. Once fueled and burning, the *Raemco* will throw off heat for over six hours, without attention. Priced from \$24.50 to \$43.50. Two sources: *Raemco, Inc.*, Dept. D, P.O. Box 482, Somerville, New Jersey; or, *Bradley Sporting Goods*, Dept. D, 99 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena, Calif. //

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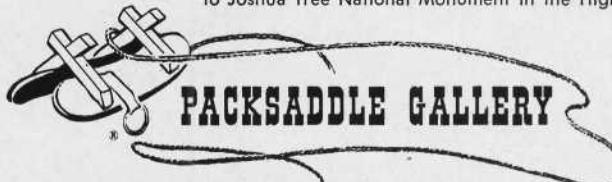
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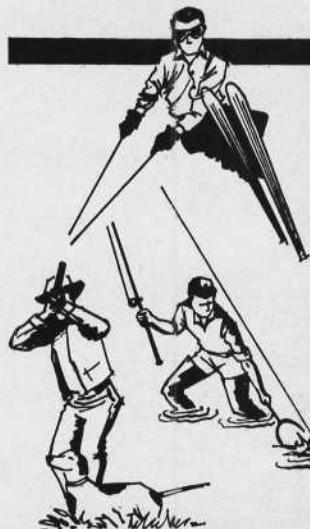
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EPISCOPALIAN MISSIONARY HAROLD LEIBLER

In 1942 A solitary horseman, wearing the robes of an Episcopalian priest, made his way along the high sandstone cliffs that parallel the San Juan River in southeastern Utah. If it weren't for the fact that he was two centuries too late, he might have been mistaken for one of the far ranging Spanish Padres who roamed the Southwest during the mid-1700s.

This man, in fact, was searching for a place to establish a mission among the Navajo Indians and implement an idea that had possessed him since boyhood.

By all standards of the Western lexicon, Father Harold Baxter Leibler was a greenhorn. Born in Brooklyn and educated in New York City, he left behind him a secure position in Old Greenwich, Connecticut,

where he had served as a parish priest for 25 years.

He made his first trip West two years previously, on the pretext of delivering delegates to a church convention in Denver. "I really drove West to explore the old Spanish Missions of California," said Father Leibler. "I was also looking for a place where people had not come in contact with Christian teachings—a place where the best of Christianity and the Indian way of life could merge." A priest at Farmington, New Mexico, suggested the Utah strip on the Navajo Indian reservation.

He began his quest July 3, 1942, striking out on horseback through arid wilderness that lay north of Farmington. Two weeks later he arrived at Mexican Hat, Utah, where he held his first mass. He became ill soon after settling in Utah, and ac-

quired a temporary Navajo name which translated meant: "The priest who drags his robe with a sore gut."

"Fortunately," says Fr. Leibler, "the name didn't take."

A week later, still recuperating from the effects of his illness, Father Leibler found himself standing in a cultivated field, known as Hyrum's Field, near the historic Mormon settlement of Bluff. "I knew from the vegetation growing on the sides of the cliff there were springs here," he said. Mass was held in Hyrum's Field on July 29—St. Christopher's Day—and since St. Christopher is the patron saint of those who travel, the mission had a name.

The idea that a volunteer mission could survive under such circumstances was as incredible as the man who conceived the idea. Father Leib-

HE FOUNDED:
" . . . a place
where
the best
of
Christianity
and the
Indian
way of life
could
merge."

By FRANK JENSEN

ler returned to New York City to organize a corporation that would solicit funds for his mission.

"We began with six people and \$1000 deposited in a New York City bank," he recounts. It cost the fledgling mission \$400 to get its missionaries to Utah and to start construction of a mission home that would serve both as a chapel and living quarters.

"We started to build with adobe, but found this too time consuming," he explained. "A Navajo rock mason was hired and the building, begun in July of 1943, was completed by April, 1944.

It was during these first years that Fr. Leibler established himself as a man with strong medicine. "I needed a way to put over the idea of the crucifixion, and decided on the use

of the sand painting. It didn't occur to me until later that the Navajo usually associates the symbols I used with rain making."

Right after mass a heavy rain drenched the area and flooded part of the mission. One of his awed converts later told the priest: "Father, that was some rain you made yesterday."

In 1950 a fire destroyed one wing of the chapel, but in spite of setbacks, work has steadily progressed until today the mission not only has a new wing, but a chapel, clinic, and school. A key to this success is a newsletter which began as a letter to a friend. Last year 18,000 copies of this newsletter were published to keep the mission's benefactor's informed of its progress and problems. The letter in turn has helped bring

the mission some \$30,000 annually which it spends, according to the letter, "to bring the Christian religion, education, and better health to the Navajo Indians in Southern Utah.

Father Leibler doesn't limit his energies to St. Christopher's. In covering 3000 square miles of Southern Utah and Northern Arizona, he may travel 25,000 miles a year. Often a simple hogan serves as a field chapel.

As if to emphasize this identity with the Navajo, Father Leibler wears his hair long, wrapping behind in the traditional style of the Indian. "I let it grow because of the lack of a barber," he said. "After a while I found it convenient to leave it long." As a result Father Leibler is known to the Navajo as "the priest with the long hair." //



FATHER LEIBLER IN FRONT OF HIS MISSION HOUSE AT BLUFF, UTAH



ORME COW PUNCHERS (ABOVE) BRING IN THE SCHOOL REMUDA. PHOTO, RIGHT: STUDY HALL.

They Go To School On A Ranch

By H. N. FERGUSON

IN THE early days of this country, youngsters frequently peered out of classroom windows, searching hopefully for a glimpse of a lurking Indian. Mark Twain wasted many a study hour watching the river boats steaming up and down the Mississippi. Down through the years students have become adept at catching the passing scene as it has been mirrored through the windows of schoolrooms across the country. But perhaps nowhere in the land is there so much to distract a student's attention as there is at the Orme School on the Quarter Circle V Bar Ranch, located in Yavapai County in central Arizona, where desert vegetation, timbered mountains, and lush farmlands combine to make this one of America's beauty spots.

However, one of the first things a visitor to the school notices is that wool-gathering is not a part of the curriculum and that the attractive outdoor life is not permitted to interfere with or distract from the all im-

portant academic program, good study habits and techniques which are planned and developed to prepare each student for the college of his choice.

The Ormes, a pioneer Arizona ranching family, came to mountain-girdled Verde Valley in 1929, and bought the 40,000-acre Quarter Circle V Bar Ranch which had been homesteaded in 1875. It was an enchanting place—roses made a trellis of the old bunkhouse walls and fanned out against the porch from which Mrs. Orme could look through an arbor of trees to the corral. The homesteaders had diverted water from Ash Creek to create an oasis in the high rocky desert. They had hired Apaches to clear the flatlands where the Ormes now range their cattle. It was good country, a land to test a man's mettle, a land in which to rear children.

"We may not do anything more than make a bare living here," said Charles Orme to his wife as they surveyed their new domain, "but one thing I'm going to do is raise my kids well."

The first thing to consider was how to get them educated. The nearest school was half a day away over primitive roads, and there were no school buses. So the Ormes brought a teacher to the ranch and fixed up the old bunkhouse as a classroom. Their three youngsters plus five sons and daughters of ranch hands made up the student body.

From the very first there was no nonsense about any of it. The moun-

tains might look down on the little classroom with a blue to entice a youngster, the branding of calves might lure him from his books, but Charles Orme insisted that although the children might be scores of miles from the nearest town they must surpass the learning levels of city youngsters. The boys and girls did, and soon other ranchers were sending their youth to the school in the old bunkhouse.

In 1935, a physician friend in New York sought admission for his son. Soon the doctor was making referrals to the school and the enrollment began extending from coast to coast. "Uncle Chick" and "Aunt Minna" soon found themselves with a continuously enlarging family of "adopted" nieces and nephews. Today 140 boys and girls from first grade through senior high school attend the Orme School. They come from 20 states and six foreign countries. Well-equipped classrooms and laboratories and an inspiring new chapel blend unassumingly into the landscape.

The cultural gifts of history are absorbed in a fascinating manner through periodic "caravans" which cover several thousand miles each year and take the students through several states and even into Old Mexico.

However, the realities of ranching play a big part in the Orme curriculum. The whole school body bangs boots on the floor at five a.m. during spring and fall roundups. The Orme Ranch Roping Association is the



student spirit behind twice-yearly rodeos with prep school members taking full responsibility for a good show, sensibly managed.

Horse-sense in terms of responsibility is expected in the ranch family, and students are given ample opportunity to exercise it in their ranch work. A fifth grader, whose appointed chore is walk-sweeping and who sweeps with the broom two inches off the cement, may well be in for the vocal disapproval of his peers or the unspoken disappointment of "Aunt Minna" (Mrs. Orme, Senior). This Socratic experience of "Know Thyself through thy chore" operates on any grade level, first through twelfth.

Since the Quarter Circle V Bar Ranch is almost completely self-sustaining, student daily work expands to such chores as gardening, trail building, calf raising, fence-mending, wood chopping, gathering eggs.

The pace is set by a faculty of 20, under the direction of Charles Orme, Jr., whose goal is the successful matriculation of Orme students into the universities of the country. Without exception thus far graduates have gone on to such representative schools as Stanford, Annapolis, Middlebury, Princeton, Scripps, Swarthmore, Wellesley and Yale.

It is a distinct pleasure to tour this 40,000-acre campus in the company of one of the Ormes and get a first-hand look at youngsters studying Spanish, English literature, geometry, chemistry—all the subjects of a good urban high school. It is a new ex-

perience, too, to watch students noiselessly rise to their feet when guests and faculty enter the room—a sign of respect for the men and women who are helping them prepare for the future.

The Ormes feel that for a student to be prepared to meet all life relationships, the program of working together, living together and learning together should be rooted in the values of America's spiritual heritage. Consequently, the goal is a Christian ideological community that gives direction and purpose to education and living. Religious training and background of a non-sectarian character are embodied in the school program.

The increased enrollment at Orme has necessitated many new facilities. Modern laboratories equipped for the teaching of chemistry, physics, and biology have been added, as well as increased accommodations for class-work music, ceramics, sketching, and dramatics. There is an excellent library.

Faculty members and their families are provided with their own homes or apartments adjacent to student quarters. The students live in two one-story dormitories plus an impressive two-story structure, with a massive western-style veranda stretching the entire length of the second story, supported by log beams still dressed in their natural color. Many of the boys have quarters in rustic log cabins.

In interscholastic sports competition, the school has well-coached teams which meet other schools in

football, basketball, baseball and tennis. In addition, there is rodeo activity, competition in riflery, in earning a place on the mounted drill team, and in the 4H program that is followed by the students.

A summer camp for boys and girls completes the almost 12-month sweep of activity for Orme School on the Quarter Circle V Bar Ranch. During this period, city-dwelling boys and girls are given an entirely new perspective on life. They are exposed to the wonders of creation and the beauties of all life and have an unsurpassed opportunity to develop an appreciation of nature and the outdoors. Many for the first time experience the close companionship of horses and a variety of other ranch animals.

They also learn to ride, enjoy swimming, take part in ranch activities, study, go camping, and explore the backcountry.

Orme students may not get to town very often, but who needs to go to town when there is such an interesting backyard to play in—a backyard containing such intriguing things as Montezuma Castle, prehistoric Indian dwellings, Fort Verde, mining camps, cliff dweller remains, the empty Indian pueblo of more than 100 rooms known as Tuzigoot, and the unbelievable red-rocked crags of sprawling Oak Creek Canyon. And down the road a piece a Hollywood company may be shooting a Western movie. It's pretty hard for a mere town to compete with all this — at least the Orme students think so.

///

OLAF WIEGHORST

*In His Palette: The Western
Magic of Remington and Russell*

By ED AINSWORTH

COMING IN through the dusty great plains of Texas, the Army train slowed and stopped at the drab station in Sanderson. An eager-faced, muscular young boy in uniform stepped off in wide-eyed wonder at the scene before him. Saddle horses were tied to hitching posts near the depot, cowboys slouched in the sparse shade, pack mules drowsed patiently nearby, and buckboards with spirited spans awaited passengers.

The boy drank in the whole scene, filled his lungs with the dry air, smelled the sweat and the horse manure, and said to himself: "Just like a William S. Hart movie!"

That's when the West "got" Olaf Wieghorst, private in the Fifth Cavalry, United States Army, while he was still so fresh from his native Denmark that he couldn't speak any English and was barely able to understand a fraction of what the drill Sergeant said.

From that moment, his life ambitions crystallized into two main objectives: To be a cowboy, and to paint cowboys. As the world now knows, he achieved both with spectacular success.

But, between that climactic instant at Sanderson and the present day some 40 years later, many adventures piled in upon Olaf Wieghorst; some of them delaying the gaining of his goals, others seasoning and conditioning him for the realization of his dreams.

Now his canvases depicting the Western plains, mountains and deserts with their lariat-throwing cowboys, bucking broncs, stampeding cattle and magnificent dawns and sunsets, are owned by many famous galleries and by such individuals as former President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The name "Wieghorst" on a painting has come to mean adventure and action and the distinctive craftsmanship of a great artist. But relatively few persons know the fascinating life story of the man himself; this youthful - appearing horseman who lives upon a high hill at El Cajon, Calif., and depicts in his studio overlooking the beautiful valley all the tempestuous scenes of the open range and the hard-riding cavalry stored in his memory.

His is never a sterile or nebulous art. Its figures leap out of the canvas at you with the zest of the painter himself, a lifelong zest which has imbued his work with the enthusiasms of creation.

How did he arrive at this peak of talent? What contributed to his enormous capacities for observation and translation of the West and its men and animals into the pigments of great paintings?

The answer goes back even further than that train arriving at Sanderson. It starts, actually, when Olaf was a small boy in his native Denmark. He always loved horses and drawing. When he could barely walk he climbed somehow onto the backs

of his grandfather's horses. From earliest childhood he was extremely agile, so much so that by the time he was nine he was a professional hand balancer and acrobat on the stage.

By the time he was 16 he was such an accomplished trick rider that he began appearing in Danish films. He was an avid admirer of American cowboy movies, and William S. Hart became one of his idols.

Olaf's father was a distinguished artist. It was no surprise to the family when Olaf, too, showed talent, particularly in the drawing of horses.

By the time he was 18, Olaf was a tremendously powerful young man and his ambitions were as powerful as his physical make-up. The American films had worked their magic: he wanted to go to America. Olaf obtained passage on a vessel which arrived at Hoboken, New Jersey, on New Year's night of 1918.

For a while he worked in the Hotel Claridge where he did repairs and odd jobs, and then the films once more exerted their influence upon the course of his life. In a movie house he saw a Pathé newsreel of the U.S. Fifth Cavalry in pursuit of Pancho Villa. This so stirred his imagination that he decided to enlist in the cavalry.

This was in the spring of 1919. Olaf still lacked command of the English language, so he asked his uncle to go with him to the recruiting office and to act as interpreter.

"I want to go to Mexico!" Olaf said.

The uncle pointed out to the recruiting officer that the lad was a very determined individual, and the officer, apparently believing in initiative, nodded agreement that Olaf could join the cavalry and go to the Mexican border.

Olaf's initial training was done at Fort Slocum, New York. Then began the long train trip which led via Sanderson to Fort Bliss at El Paso where the Fifth Cavalry, Seventh Cav-

alry and the 82nd Field Artillery were in training.

His English still was extremely poor. He was considered crazy by some of the other soldiers because he spent all of his spare time drawing pictures of cow horses and imaginary cowboys even before he had seen any of the genuine article.

Olaf plunged into the rigors of training as practiced by the oldtime cavalry at Fort Bliss. For some of the men the exercises were sheer torture and many of them were injured in falls from their horses due to the conditions under which they were compelled to train. This consisted of having the reins tied together on the saddle horn and the men then having their hats tipped over their eyes so they could not see and then having to proceed over obstacle courses at full gallop.

To trick-rider Olaf this was a simple matter. His superior horsemanship attracted the attention not only of his companions but of the officers as well.

Olaf's cool nerve so endeared him to the tough old Commanding Officer that he was picked as one of a machine gun troop assigned to each unit of the cavalry. In this capacity he and his fellow troopers had charge of 22 pack mules carrying ammunition, each one a potential explosive unit in itself.

At this time the name of Pancho Villa still was dreaded along the American border. From Brownsville all along the Rio Grande around into New Mexico the name was sufficient to cause consternation whenever it was mentioned. The raid by Villa on Columbus, New Mexico, still was remembered vividly. The feats of Black Jack Pershing in attempting to corral the elusive Villa before Pershing was called to the battlefields of Europe still were fresh in the minds of border dwellers.

Villa followers in large numbers hovered along the border ready to swoop down on unsuspecting ranches



Olaf Wieghorst

or isolated towns if the opportunity seemed to promise booty and excitement.

It was amid these circumstances when young Olaf Wieghorst was a private in the machine gun troop that orders came for the Fifth Cavalry to move down along the border to the outpost of Presidio on the Rio Grande.

"The morning we left provided the most inspiring sight I ever saw in my life," recalls Wieghorst today. "Three thousand men, 2500 of them mounted, were there on the parade ground at Fort Bliss—the Fifth Cavalry, the Seventh Cavalry, the 82nd Field Artillery. Their sabres flashed in the sunlight as they passed in review. The flags of the United States and the regiments fluttered in the early morning breeze. It is something I can never forget. It represented America and the United States and the spirit of the people among whom I had come as an alien boy."

Down through the Big Bend coun-

try of the Rio Grande, now a national park of immense size, went the troopers to help keep Pancho Villa under control. For 19 months Olaf Wieghorst and his fellow soldiers sweated and rode patrol and risked their lives from pot-shots across the Rio Grande. Olaf often carried the mail 12 miles up the river where he met another mail carrier from up north and they exchanged letter sacks. All during this time he was recognized as a good soldier. Olaf was selected to go to the horseshoeing school at San Antonio, a great honor as only the most outstanding troopers were selected.

"We didn't have any USO or ice cream cones at that camp, believe me!" laughs Olaf. After completing his course, he rejoined the outfit and became an invaluable member of it because of the great importance of horseshoeing in this rough country.

Then came an event which changed his life once more. The regiment was ordered to Douglas, Arizona. On the long march the rains came and the

men slept in mud and were thoroughly miserable.

Olaf was by himself during the trip through El Paso. He was riding a half-wild horse which had never been in a city before. In the busiest part of the community the horse went berserk from fear and excitement. He reared and fell and struck the curbstone, pinning Olaf under him and then dragging him down the street. Olaf knew his left ankle was hurt but he was determined to follow his outfit which had gone on ahead and which he had orders to join.

It was a fiercely hot day in August. As he rode out of town, his leg began to swell and he suffered intense pain. Before long he became dizzy and was barely able to hold himself on the horse. The animal itself apparently had been somewhat injured too in the fall on the pavement and Olaf had great difficulty keeping it from falling. All afternoon he rode in a heat-dazed coma.

The last thing he remembers is seeing a campfire in the darkness ahead. When he came to he was in the Captain's tent. He was told that his left ankle was broken. After it had been patched up he hobbled out and slept under a wagon. The ordeal in the heat had been so terrific that the horse died during the night.

Olaf himself was given orders to go to the hospital for recovery. He protested violently. Only some infantrymen were in the remote station where he had arrived after his long delirious ride. He begged the Commanding Officer to permit him to go on with the remainder of his own outfit. Reluctantly the officer agreed, telling Olaf that if he seemed to be collapsing under the strain he would have to be sent to the hospital.

Doggedly Olaf rode all the way to Douglas, with his broken ankle, never once permitting his companions or the officers to know the agony in which he traveled. He remained there until the spring of 1922.

Then he prepared to embark upon

the adventurous life which had beckoned to him for so many years.

He was requested to re-enlist because he had become extremely valuable to the cavalry by this time. But the call of the West was in his blood. He was determined to become a cowboy.

And so began the period in which his horsemanship and his art started to fuse into the career which he since has brought to fruition.

He felt at home in Arizona and New Mexico. The towering mesas, the blue-veiled horizons, the illimitable spaces, the great quietness, the colors in the sky, the men on horseback, the animals in the canyons and in the meadows along the rivers—these spoke to him in a language that he yearned to translate onto canvas for others to see and appreciate.

One of Olaf's best friends in the cavalry was Sergeant Buck Jones, son of Robert J. Jones of Elida, New Mexico. Another friend was Fred Stark. The trio decided to try the life on the range, and bade their Army companions goodbye.

First they went into the Sulphur Valley of Arizona where they broke horses for the scattered ranches, and lived off the land between hitches. They went to Willcox in the heart of a great cattle region, camped near Alma in the country of the famous WS Ranch.

Olaf met Elton Cunningham of White Water Creek who operated a big spread and needed a hand. Buck Jones and Stark had other plans, so they went ahead and Olaf remained to work and paint. He found old man Cunningham a determined and typical example of Western self initiative.

"He was ready for anything," Olaf recalls. One day there came to the ranch a fellow Cunningham recognized as a pretty tough character who had served time in some killings. However, Cunningham greeted the traveler in friendly fashion and permitted him to get some water and to take care of his horse.

"The old ranch house was typical of many I have seen in that region," Olaf relates. "Battered auto seats were hung up by chains for chairs. Guns were on the wall in handy position to be seized quickly when needed."

"A few days before we had been chopping some wood down the way and we had left a hatchet stuck in a tree. When this fellow had watered his horse and started on he took the route where we had been doing the chopping. When he came to the tree he didn't realize that we could see him because he grabbed the hatchet and stuck it in his saddle bag."

"Old man Cunningham calmly went in and took down a rifle and came back out on the front porch. Voices carried a long way in that clear air. Old man Cunningham called out loudly to the man who was now a half-mile away: 'You'd better put that hatchet back!'

"The fellow jerked up in surprise. He took one look back toward Cunningham standing there with his rifle, turned his horse, rode back, stuck the hatchet in the tree, and then got out of there as fast as he could."

"It was the kind of thing you encountered in the West in those days. Men didn't fool around. They indulged in direct action."

When he wasn't working cattle, Olaf was painting. He knew now he was realizing in some degree the goal he had set for himself in regard to technicalities of art. The subject matter was everywhere—the cattle on the ranges, the cowboys in the roundups, hilarious sprees in the far flung outposts where saloons predominated—all the color and vigor and wildness of the West.

Olaf even learned how to combine his cattle punching with art. He would take a hot running iron and burn scenes on bar or saloon walls. He even painted pictures on the outside walls of the buildings when he lacked canvas or paper.

All this time his paintings were



J. Wieghorst SC

For a framing print of Wieghorst's painting, "Four Horses," same size as shown above (plus one-inch white margin), lithographed on high-quality paper stock, send \$1 to: Reprint Dept., Desert Magazine, Palm Desert, Calif. (Other \$1 prints available by mail: Bill Bender's "Desert Wash," John W. Hilton's "Whispering Canyon," Al Nestler's "Rainbow Bridge" and Ted DeGrazia's "Papago Harvest" and "Desert Madonna.")

becoming authentic and spirited and recognizable in the qualities he treasured.

But during these lonely months (he remained in the cattle country for two years) there haunted his memory the beautiful face of a girl named Mable that he had met in New York.

Finally Olaf could stand the loneliness no longer. He returned to New York. There he found Mabel waiting and asked her to marry him. She accepted.

With a wife it was necessary to get a steady job. The opportunity came with the New York Police Department. In those days many police in New York City were in mounted units. They patrolled the streets, and the horses they used had to be tamed. This was where Olaf came in. He

began to break and train the horses for the Police Department.

Olaf began to carry off all the trophies in riding contests. He became recognized as the greatest horseman on the New York Police Department.

During this time he was beginning to get a small return for the first time on his art work. Through a friend he was able to hawk his wares on a long table in the entryway of Madison Square Garden. He sold drawing for a dollar or two dollars apiece and oil painting from \$10 to \$30. All these he turned out in his spare time when he was not wrestling with wild broncs.

As the years passed, his paintings became so powerful they began attracting attention of notable people. One of these was Tom Morgan, vice president of Sperry Gyroscope Co.,

and a prominent member of the Sleepy Hollow Country Club. Morgan owned a Palomino which he prized very highly and wanted painted. He asked Olaf to do the job and how much it would be.

For two weeks Olaf struggled to get up his courage to ask Morgan the unheard of sum of \$500 for the painting. Finally Olaf gulped out the price and Morgan calmly accepted it as a matter of course. It was the financial turning point in the life of Olaf the artist.

But, he did not like to do "commissions"—paintings of prize animals. It is true that he did a few, but it was not something he enjoyed. He much preferred to exercise his own instinct and discretion as to what he painted. He felt that he stunted himself

continued on page 31

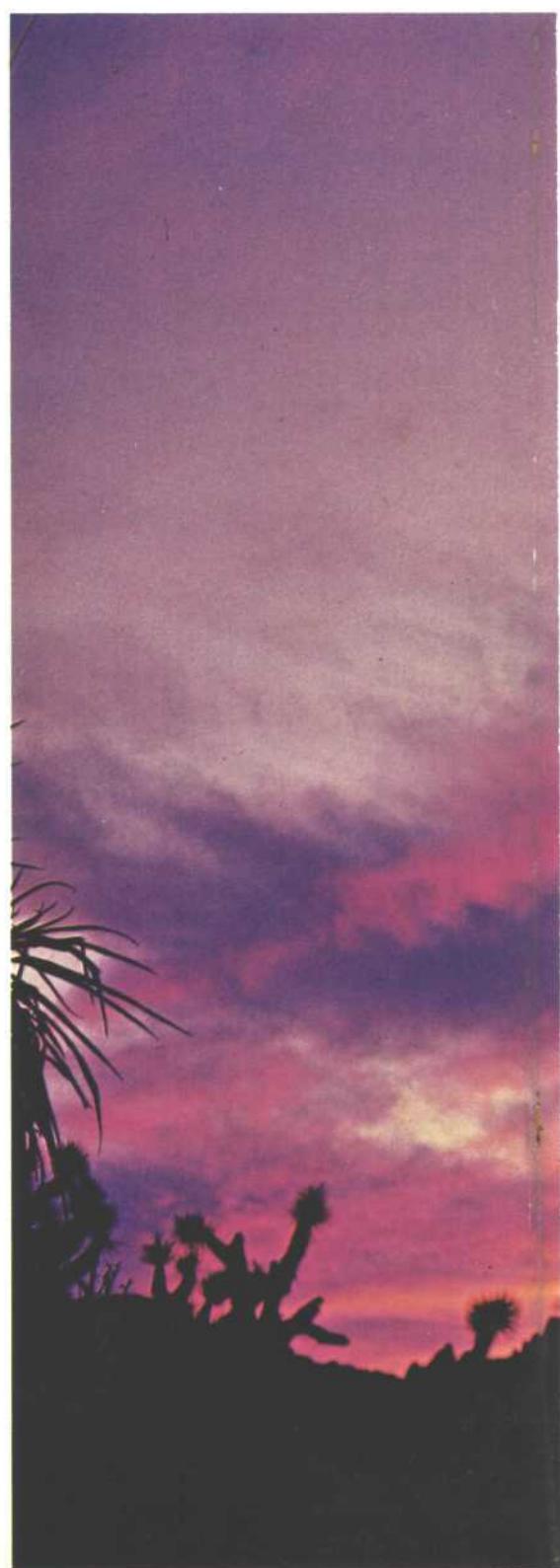
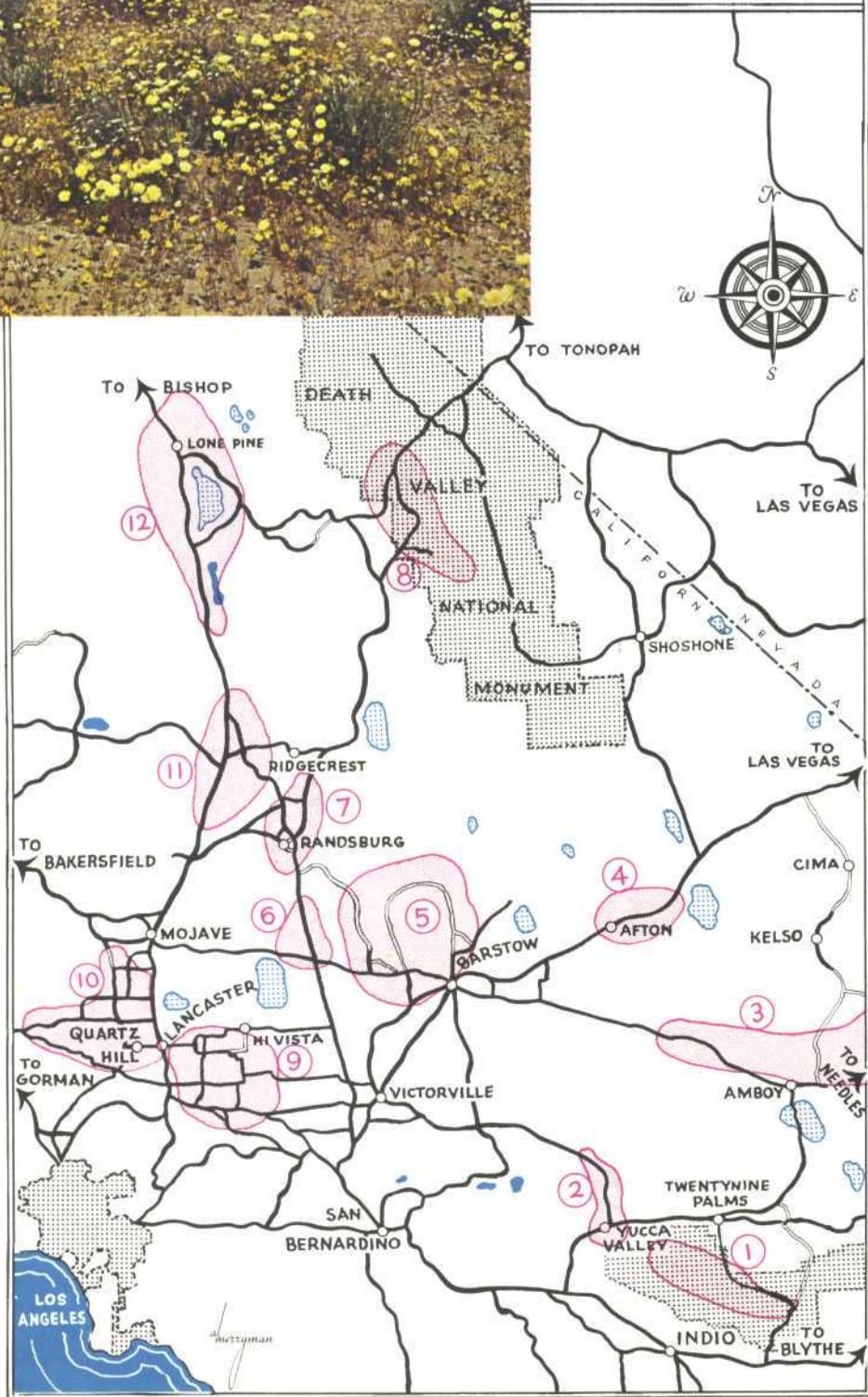


COLORFUL SPRING FOR THE MOJAVE

By LUCILE WEIGHT

The two photographs on these pages were taken by Ralph D. Cornell of Los Angeles. At left is a flower field of desert dandelion and Bigelow coreopsis in the Antelope Valley north of Lancaster. The sunset scene, showing a Joshua Tree in silhouette, was taken at Joshua Tree National Monument.

In much of the western part of the California deserts, residents are reporting above-average showing of annual growth which they expect to produce an abundance of flowers during the 45-day period, mid-April through May. Only hard freezes in early April could draw down the curtain on the first good Mojave Desert flower show in four years.



VE: FLORID SKIES, HEAVENLY FIELDS OF BLOSSOMS

Key to wildflower map:

1. *Joshua Tree National Monument* — Astride the two deserts, this area will not have over-all bloom but should be good in western section. Visitors can get directions to best stands from headquarters, Twenty-nine Palms Oasis. Mound and strawberry cactus, Nolina and Yucca, goldenbush, cassia, lupin, desert willow (*Chilopsis*), apricot

cot mallow, indigo, Mojave aster, paintbrush, pentstemon and desert plume are expected. Smoketree may start at end of May but usually later. Look for ocotillo in Pinto Basin.

2. *High Desert-Old Woman Springs area*— Most of the rain and snow in the High Desert fell in Yucca Valley area, east to Joshua Tree and north along Old Woman Springs road and the canyons leading west

from this road. May blooms should include Baileya, phacelias, verbena, gillas, pincushion, poppies, apricot mallow, blazing star, indigo, desert dandelion.

3. *Amboy*—Highway 66 between Barstow and Needles this month may not have the miles of geraea (desert sunflower) it sometimes does, but the Ord, Cady, Bristol, Ship,

continued on page 38





A TRAIL SCOOTER CROSSES A STREAM IN THE WHITE MOUNTAINS OF ARIZONA

A Little Machine's Big Impact . . .

IN OCTOBER, 1960, Sam Hicks's story, "Power Scooters," appeared in *DESERT*, and things have never been quite the same in the Southwest since.

A power scooter (or trail scooter, as the industry prefers to call its product) is a midget motorcycle stripped of all fancy refinements and geared low to provide locomotion over terrain which one would normally travel by foot or horseback. Most scooters plug along at a slow top-speed of 20 miles-an-hour—and rarely, at this speed, can one be injured in a spill. These are not

"thrill" machines, nor are they engineered for use on public roads. Their specific purpose is to convey man and his gear into the backcountry.

It seems that no one who read the Hicks article was left without an opinion concerning the trail scooter. For reporting the fact that the desert was witnessing an invasion by specially-built scooters, *DESERT* was praised and parboiled. Subscriptions were cancelled, subscriptions were purchased, meetings were held, resolutions were passed, legislators were alerted, advice was offered, laws were passed, laws were challenged.

Even before its second breath could be drawn, the trail scooter industry found itself with some serious public relations problems. To be sure, a measure of this difficulty was inherited from the popular image of the black-leather-jacketed motorcycle crowd, but most resulted from serious concern of conservationists convinced that a rubber-tired plague was about to descend on mountain and desert fastnesses.

Net result of this hubbub is confusion, but history seems to be on the side of the trail scooter, for the passions aroused by the coming of "mechanical pack animals" to the desert is reminiscent of the anxiety touched-off by the first autos, the first cross-country use of Jeeps, the first heavy collecting of gem-mineral specimens in the public domain.

To keep the public informed of its side of the story, a number of trail scooter manufacturers joined together as the American Motor Scooter Association. One of this organization's current projects is to print and dis-

tribute Trail Courtesy Booklets to power scooter owners. Main points of this course in outdoor manners are covered below.

But, the "war" is still in its preliminary skirmish stage. Erle Stanley Gardner, an avowed trail scooter booster, sketches the battle lines in his story following.

And in a dozen western cities, a grass roots effort by scooter riders to police their own ranks is underway. The emergence of trail scooter clubs is perhaps the most significant development in the short history of this machine, for here is being repeated the same attempt at amicable solution that proved so successful in our area for rockhound clubs and four-wheel - drive clubs. These groups, through education and more overt methods of control, exert pressure for proper use and respect of the outdoors. Indeed, some Southern California four - wheel - drive clubs have probably hauled home more litter than was ever scattered throughout this country by the early Jeep enthusiasts.

The AMSA reports the following trail scooter clubs in existence: In California: Calaveras Pathfinders, Murphys; Butte County Search and Rescue Sheriff's Unit, Paradise; Fresno County Tote Gote Club, Fresno; Porterville Trail Riders, Porterville; Trail Dusters, Roseville; West End Mobile Explorers, Ontario; and two clubs in Washington, the Centaur Club in Seattle, and the Trail Riders in Centralia. Pueblo, Colorado, is the home of the Trails End Tote Gote Club; and in Glenwood Springs, Colorado, the Mount Sopris Tote Gote Club is co-sponsor of the annual cross country trail scooter races which will probably be held this year in July. The Arizona Venture Riders were formed in Phoenix, and a new group is being organized in Tucson by Dave Shulgren of Sportsline Sporting Goods. Also being formed is a club in San Diego, with Frank Eicholtz of Eicholtz Archery in charge of organization.

Some of the clubs, like the Phoenix and Butte County groups, work close-

ly with government agencies concerned with search and rescue work. Others stress social rides, with all members of the family participating. But, nearly all of the clubs are working toward the education of rider members as to the proper way for them to use their machines in the outdoors.

Theme of the AMSA's new booklet is: "be courteous on the trail." Courtesy is defined thusly:

"Respect private property; respect that portion of the American public domain which has been set aside as 'Wild, Wilderness or Primitive' areas —land in which travel must be restricted to foot or horseback. Because of the unique conditions in National Parks and Monuments and the necessity to preserve these scenic attractions in their natural state, motor vehicles and trail scooters are restricted to public roads and parking areas, and it follows that the trail scooter cannot travel public roads unless licensed by the state to do so.

"Respect emergency closures of public lands — forests closed by extreme fire hazard, freshly seeded range, city watershed areas that could be contaminated. Such areas are usually conspicuously posted—but, the best rule to follow is: 'when in doubt, stay out.'

"The private property owner is always right; if private land must be crossed, obtain permission first. Avoid fence damage caused by lifting scooters over, under or through fences. Close all gates behind you.

"On many steep trails where unchecked water runoff would create erosion, water-bars have been installed—usually a log or dirt dam. The courteous trail scooter rider does not disturb these check-dams. If one must be crossed, lift the front wheel of the scooter over and then ease the back wheel across. If by accident a water-bar is dislodged, the rider should repair it.

"Scooter riders, because of their ability to penetrate deeply into the backcountry, should be extra careful about leaving a clean camp.



HORSES, PACK-ANIMALS HAVE RIGHT-OF-WAY.
DRAWING IS FROM AMSA'S 'COURTESY' BOOK.

"There are areas which the courteous rider avoids — areas where the land conditions are such that wheeled travel over them could result in erosion or other damage. Scooters should not be taken across soft meadows or over stretches of loose topsoil. Riding a scooter straight up a loose hill could cause a rut to be formed, and subsequent runoff could start erosion.

"Trail scooter riders, as well as all persons who use the outdoors, have a major responsibility in preventing forest and brush fires. A rider should never smoke while riding.

"Isolated waterholes in the deep backcountry play an important role in the watering of livestock and wildlife. The courteous rider camps far enough away from these areas so that cattle and game will not be disturbed in their quest for water.

"The trail scooter rider should 'go that extra mile' to avoid harassing pack trains and horses. But, if scooter and horse or mule meet on the trail, the scooter rider should pull over, turn off his motor, and wait for the horsemen or pack trains to pass in safety. The responsibility is the scooter rider's.

"Forest Service estimates that six million domestic animals graze on the public domain. A reckless trail scooter operator could alarm the livestock and cause them to scurry away to possible injury, or to be scattered.

"The trail scooter's unique advantage is its ability to take-off cross-country—where there are no trails. However, riding cross - country can sometimes be difficult. If possible, the rider should stay on established trails where the going is easier, and where there is less chance of harming the land."

CONTINUED

TRAIL SCOOTERS

(continued)

AND NOW THERE ARE FIFTEEN

By V. LEE OERTLE

PROSPECTOR

1228 West Alaska Place, Denver
23, Colorado



From across the Rockies comes one of the least expensive of the trail machines—a very practical and dependable scooter called Prospector. This vehicle is made of rolled steel tubing, welded at every joint. The front fork assembly is removable, and can be locked in position. Motor is positioned in the center of the scooter, where it is easy to get at. Steel mesh guards the direct chain drive. Wheel base: 43 inches; 3 HP, 4 cycle engine (5 1/4 HP model with larger frame available at \$299); Price: \$199.50.

RANGER

Harley-Davidson Motor Co., Milwaukee 1, Wisconsin



One of the oldest names in two-wheel transportation, Harley-Davidson now manufactures a Ran-

SAVAGE VANGUARD

Tri-City Welding, 11650 McBean Drive, El Monte, Calif.

This is the most compact of all scooters. Steel tubing frame is jig formed, sigma short arc welded. Heavy duty 14-inch tires are chain-driven. The Vanguard has full fenders front and rear, luggage rack, heavy-duty centrifugal clutch. Special vibration-free motor mounts allow engine to operate in rough terrain without vibrations being completely absorbed by frame. Motorcycle-type



seat is fully upholstered, and is mounted on spring. While smaller than the average trail bike, the Vanguard is a well-built scooter, easily handled in tight quarters. Engine: 3 HP; 4 cycle. Top speed: 20 MPH. Gear ratio in low: 16 to 1. Length: 50 inches. Wheelbase: 35 inches. Weight: 89 pounds. Price: \$239.

TIMBERLINE

Palmini Engineering Corp., 3156 N. San Gabriel Blvd., South San Gabriel, Calif.



This new trail bike has some unusual features. Rear section of frame is shock-absorber mounted for excellent ride. Scrub-type brake on rear wheel for primary braking force works satisfactorily. Scrub-type brake on front tire acts as hill-holder, and is adjusted so it can't be locked—a good safety feature. The steel 8-inch wheels are mounted with wide-traction tires. Fiberglass shroud protects chain-drive power train. Builder claims up to 200 miles per gallon. Second seat available for extra passenger. Engine: 3 1/2 HP; 4 cycle. Top speed: 45 MPH. Gear ratio: 40 to 1. Ground clearance: 8 inches. Weight: 128 pounds. Price: \$325.

PAK-JAK BURRITO

Pak-Jak Sales & Service, P.O. Box 1015, Paradise, Calif.

Pak-Jak, pioneer in the trail scooter field, has introduced a small, compact version of its standard Pak-Jak machine. The Burrito, like its big brother, is ruggedly built and every piece of metal on it is functional. Single brake operates off handlebar. (The standard Pak-Jak has a tractor-tire rear wheel for powerful rough-terrain traction; 40 to 1 gear ratio; and 20 MPH speed.) Burrito's low weight is a big factor in maneuverability, ease of handling. Engine: 3 HP, 4 cycle.

Top speed: 40 MPH. Weight: 100 pounds. Price: Not announced.



PACK CYCLE

149 N. 10th Ave., Upland, Calif.

Careful design with the rider in mind makes Pack Cycle one of the best-riding bikes I have tested. The broad flat floor pan can be used much like the stirrups on a pack horse. Spring-loaded front forks. Seat is padded with foam. Fiberglass side panels protect power train. Big kickstand folds down for stable mounting.

CUSHMAN TRAILSTER
Cushman Motors, Lincoln, Neb.



This unit is the huskiest and toughest of the trail machines,

designed for heavy loads and extreme reliability. Big feature of the Trailster is the two-speed transmission. Low gear has all the torque and tire-clawing power ever needed; high gear still has enough power to climb hills that don't require the use of both feet for stabilization. Brake pedals are placed on both sides of the frame for use with either foot. Rear wheel brake also operated off handlebar. Front wheel brake optional. Side panels protect all vital parts. Carrying rack is standard equipment. Engine: 7.9 HP; 4 cycle. Top speed (with climbing gears) 12 MPH. Length: 68½ inches. Wheelbase: 52 inches. Ground clearance: 7¾ inches. Weight: over 200 pounds. Price: \$350.

SIDEKICK

5985 No. Washington, Denver 16,
Colorado



This trail bike from Colorado has the unusual feature of a take-down front fork, allowing easier storage in a small area. Seat is adjustable forward and back — and anyone with experience on trail bikes will appreciate this feature. Constructed of high tensile steel tubing, arc welded. Drive ratio varies according to the load and engine-speed demand — transmission is called Universal Powr-Pak, which is centrifugally controlled. Extra-heavy drive chains are employed in the power train. Brakes controlled from handlebars. Rack for spare gas can included. Engine: 3 HP; 4 cycle. Top speed: 14 MPH. Length: 61 inches. Wheelbase: 43½ inches. Ground clearance: 9½ inches. Weight: 130 pounds. Price: around \$300.

TRAIL BLAZER

1610 Industrial Road, Salt Lake City, Utah

Clean overall lines with an attractive steel body shroud gives Blazer a streamlined appearance over a rugged frame. Most unusual feature is the rubber-mounted engine positioned forward on the frame for better placement of weight. This allows



a center of gravity well ahead of the rear wheel on upgrades. Rear brakes operated off handlebars. Blazer advertises its transmission as an Automatic Torque Converter. Also available for the Trail and Super (5¾ HP, 152 pound weight) Blazer is a 2-speed Marco transmission which gives speeds from 2 to 40 MPH. Luggage rack optional; other extra-cost accessories available. Engine 3 HP, 4 cycle. Fuel capacity: 3 quarts. Top speed: 25 MPH. Weight: 135 pounds. Price: \$305.



Two models available. Ball and roller drop center wheels are rugged and long lasting. Frame is jig-formed and arc-welded out of cold-rolled steel tubing. Rear-wheel brake is operated off the handlebar. Fitted with automatic clutch, which varies gear ratio according to engine speed and power demand. Engine: 3 HP; 4 cycle. Fuel capacity: 3 quarts. Wheel base: 38 inches. Ground clearance: 9 inches. Weight: 110 pounds. Price: \$270.

TOTE-GOTE

Bonham Corp., P.O. Box 121,
Provo, Utah



The old-timer in the field of trail scooters remains the sales leader, yet the bike is a piece of functional simplicity. Frame material is 7/8-inch high tensile steel tubing, with protective side panels of expanded steel mesh. Brake and throttle controls on handlebars; front brake optional. Fine automatic clutch and transmission are this machine's top features. Chain drive is set vertical, which the maker claims will keep rocks and sticks out of power train. Available are higher powered models (5¾ HP), and complete line of accessory equipment, from snow chains to buddy seats. Engine: 3 HP; 4 cycle. Top speed: 18 MPH. Gear ratio: 40 to 1. Length: 58½ inches. Wheel base: 42½ inches. Ground clearance 8 inches. Weight: 120 pounds. Price: \$299.50.

HONDA TRAIL 50

American Honda Motor Co. 4077
West Pico Blvd., Los Angeles 19,
Calif.



A motorcycle-type trail machine, the Honda Trail 50 is a superbly engineered piece of equipment with many plus features including front and rear hydraulic shock absorbers, three-speed transmission, dual cam-type brakes, and lights front and rear. The front brakes operate off handlebar; rear brakes by foot-pedal. The gear ratio for backcountry travel is an amazing 82 to 1. A touring sprocket can be substituted to give 45 MPH smooth-ground travel. The manufacturer claims 200 miles on a gallon of gas. Engine: 5 HP, 4 cycle. Fuel capacity: 1 gallon. Top speed: 25 MPH. Weight: 121 pounds. Price: \$275.

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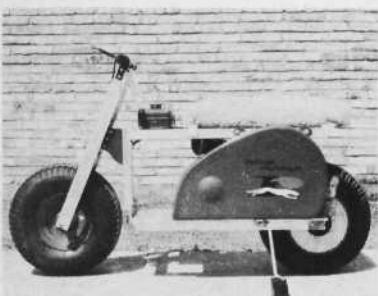
TRAIL SCOOTERS

(continued)

RIDGE RUNNER

4819 North 7th St., Phoenix, Ariz.

From Arizona comes the Ridge Runner, and the observer immediately sees two unique features that this well-constructed machine offers: a frame made of heat-treated aircraft-specification aluminum; and a two-foot long foam-padded carpet-covered seat. Heavy-duty sealed ball bearings in the front fork make the Ridge Runner a top performer in the ease-to-handle and steering departments. Brake and throttle controls are on handlebars. Tough chain-link drive (belt-drive is optional); 3 HP engine (4 HP op-



tional); top speed: 18 MPH. Gear ratio is 24½ to 1 in high; 30½ to 1 in low. Overall length: 5 feet; ground clearance: 8 inches. The Ridge Runner weighs 116 pounds. Price: \$325.

TRAIL SCOUT

Bug Engineering, 330 S. Irwindale, Azusa, Calif.

This is one of the most compact trail vehicles ever offered—a well-built machine with clean, functional lines. Trail Scout has spring-loaded front forks, and a large well-padded seat. The engine provides power for the dual-ratio sprocket transmission. Fiberglass chain guard is standard on this machine. Carrying rack is optional equipment. This scooter's light weight adds to its maneuverability, and is a big asset when it is necessary to manhandle a vehicle. Braking is by



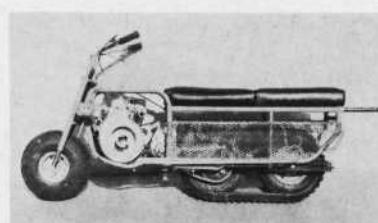
a spot disc brake which has no-fade performance. Engine: 3½ HP, 4 cycle. Top speed: 12 MPH in low gear; 38 MPH in high. Gear ratio: 16:65 to 1. Length: 50 inches. Weight: 83 pounds. Price: \$249.

TRAIL-CYCLE
Baldwin Manufacturing Co., Twin Falls, Idaho



The three horsepower Trail-Cycle is only one of four models available from Baldwin—and if you are handy with screwdriver and wrench you can save by buying a complete Trail-Cycle kit and assemble your own scooter. The frame is of arc-welded and jig-formed steel tubing. Trail-Cycle has a positive transmission with lock-in two-speed sprocket. A good feature is the front-end spring suspension which absorbs some of the bumps in rough country. The 3 HP model weighs 127 pounds; 9-inch ground clearance, 48-inch wheel base. Top speed: 25 MPH. Price not announced.

MUDD-KAT
Suite 401, El Paso Building, 315 East 2nd South, Salt Lake City 11, Utah



The Mudd-Kat is the "half-track" of the power scooter industry—a moulded rubber track assembly with tough bonded cleats fits over the two rear wheels, and provides 100-inches of "kat-grip" traction. The manufacturer dubs this unique feature: "climb-over action." The front-fork is different, too—dual trailing arms. A variable speed clutch delivers the primary drive; secondary drive is by positive two-speed enclosed transmission. The engine produces a big 6 HP; the manufacturer says his machine will go 35 MPH. Length: 65 inches; ground clearance: 8 inches; weight: 173 pounds. A 5½ HP engine with lighting equipment is optional. Mudd-Kat also makes three other machines—the Trail Kat, Mini-Kat, and Cobra Kat. Price: \$489.50.

WHO OWNS

Common sense dictates that the public domain should be administered so that the greatest number of people can derive the greatest enjoyment from the natural resources which are, so to speak, held in trust for the benefit of all of the citizens.

The trouble is that there are administrative problems and pressure-group problems.

The various public agencies that administer the national public resources must keep a watchful eye on the taxpayer's pocketbook, and they find themselves in the middle of pressure groups, some of which are literally pulling in opposite directions.

Take timber, for instance.

The lumberman knows that timber is a crop just as corn and wheat are crops. It is a slow-growing crop, but a crop to be harvested, nevertheless. The average citizen thinks of a tree as a natural ornament to a primitive mountain area.

Actually it takes only an automobile trip through the suburbs of any of our large cities to bring about a realization that if it hadn't been for judicious harvesting of the timber crop, a whale of a lot of people would be living in tents.

There are, however, esthetic problems involved in connection with timber, and perhaps no sight is more depressing to the nature lover than a mountainside which has been stripped bare of timber.

One moment the slope is a soft pastel of waving green tree tops below which the shaded ground, soft and springy to the step, is an area of cool twilight.

Then, with the roar of gasoline motors, the tearing of power saws, and the crashing of falling trees, that mountainside becomes a hideous scar from which the nature lover recoils in horror.

This forest, however, is one of our natural resources. We need the timber from the trees. It is a part of our



THE OUTDOORS?

By ERLE STANLEY GARDNER

economic life and the lumber goes into beautiful homes which are the pride of the communities in which they are constructed and which house many happy families.

The Forest Service sees that the harvested area is replanted and in the course of years another crop of timber will cover the mountainside—better, healthier timber than would have been the case if there had been no logging.

In fact the new technique of harvesting timber in such a way that wide firebreaks are left throughout the timber country actually saves more timber than it destroys.

If you are in the Forest Service or if you are a lumberman, you realize all of these things. If, however, you're a tourist or an average nature lover, you rise up in wrath at the sight of the denuded mountainside and the raw yellow scar of recent logging operations.

The timber interests might conceivably cut more timber than was good for the country unless they were restricted. The nature lovers, if given their way, would save *all* of the timber until the cost of home construction would become prohibitive, the lightning-generated forest fires would rage unchecked, and the forests which had not been burnt would suffer from the destructive borer beetles and

other insects that propagate in the heavy undergrowth.

As one timberman said to me, "How would the Midwest feel if a group of people came along and made it illegal to harvest the wheat and corn crops, on the grounds that such harvesting destroyed the beauty of the countryside?"

This lumberman insisted that while

the timber crop had a longer cycle, it was just as necessary to harvest it as it was to harvest the grain crop.

However, the Forest Service finds itself between two fires—the economic pressures which require that the timber be harvested for the good of the country, and the reactions of people who regard the cutting of a tree as sacrilege.

Then there is the question of grazing the public lands.

Let's concede that there are many cattle and sheep men who would over-graze the public lands if given their way, just as there are many people who would keep all cattle and sheep off the public range if they had their way.

The governmental agencies in control have to withstand all of these pressure groups and try to make a fair appraisal of the situation. Moreover, having made their rules they have to enforce them.

Many a taxpayer who screams indignantly that the public domain is being over-grazed, cries out like a wailing banshee at the idea of paying enough taxes to permit even a token enforcement of the regulations.

Finally, let us consider the desert, one of the larger land bodies still held by the public.

There are various pressure groups pulling in various directions on the desert problem.

Some years ago the Jeep and other four-wheel-drive vehicles made it possible to get into sections of the desert which had been up to that point virtually unexplored.

Then came the various two-wheel scooters—the Tote Gote, the Pak-Jak, the Trail Blazer, and dozens of others; and suddenly pressure groups sprang into action.

The Desert Protective Council, many of whose members had enjoyed the use of four-wheel-drive vehicles to satisfy their own personal craving for desert exploration, came to the conclusion that a restriction should be placed on the use of these same vehicles by members of the less favored public. The Council has now passed a resolution calling on the authorities to prohibit the "unregulated" use of vehicles on the public domain, some of the advocates even going so far as to insist that the use of *all* power-propelled vehicles be confined to established roads.

This action is so radical that the manufacturers and users of various equipment are still rubbing their eyes in incredulous amazement.

Once the word gets around that four-wheel-drive vehicles and two-wheel explorers are to be used only on highways (and most of the two-wheel scooter-type vehicles are created exclusively for off-the-highway use and could not be used legally on highways) there is bound to be a roar of protest.

Why, these people want to know, should it be illegal for them to take a rubber-tired vehicle any place they want to go in the desert country?

While some claim is made that these vehicles work "irreparable" damage, it is quite apparent that the main objection is based upon esthetic grounds.

* It is time Mr. and Mrs. Average

Citizen took a good long look at this problem of what is happening and what is going to happen in the public domain.

It is my opinion that the public domain should be used in such a manner as to give the greatest good to the greatest number.

I feel that the development of the two-wheel scooter and the new type of four-wheel drive vehicle is going to result in human penetration of sections of the desert which have heretofore hardly known the foot of man.

People who love to collect semi-precious stones will find valuable new deposits. People who like to adventure and camp in out-of-the-way places will find healthful recreation in an uncrowded, untrammeled part of the state which was heretofore generally unknown to the average citizen.

Some people are going to object to this. They're going to object to the noise of the vehicles. They're going to object to seeing the tracks left by rubber tires over sand hills.

Who's going to win out?

Where are the equities of the situation?

What are the rights of the general public?

When outboard motors were first developed they were noisy and relatively inefficient. Lake owners protested at the noise. Fortunately, however, these protests went unheeded because wise legislators realized that a new industry was being opened up and that the personal complaints of a few snobbish lake dwellers shouldn't stand in the way of the general public good.

Today the outboard motor industry, the boat and boat-trailer industry, have made tremendous economic contributions to the country, and a whole new area of enjoyment has been opened to the public.

There will always be differences of opinion, but it is my belief that in this country the greatest good of the greatest number should be the controlling factor, and I believe it is high time the people generally asserted themselves.

The public should realize it is entitled to the benefit of the public domain.

No pressure group should be permitted to prevent the public from enjoying the public domain. //



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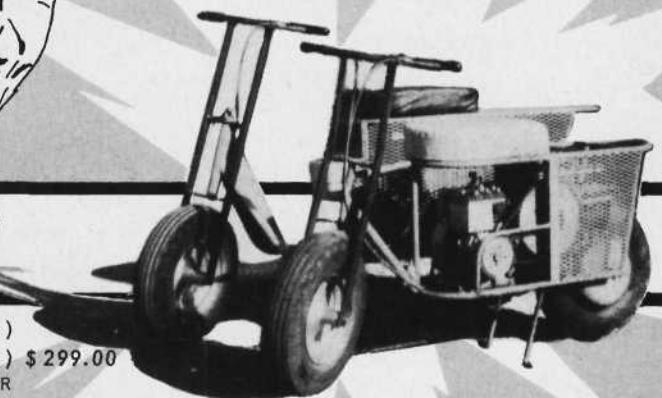
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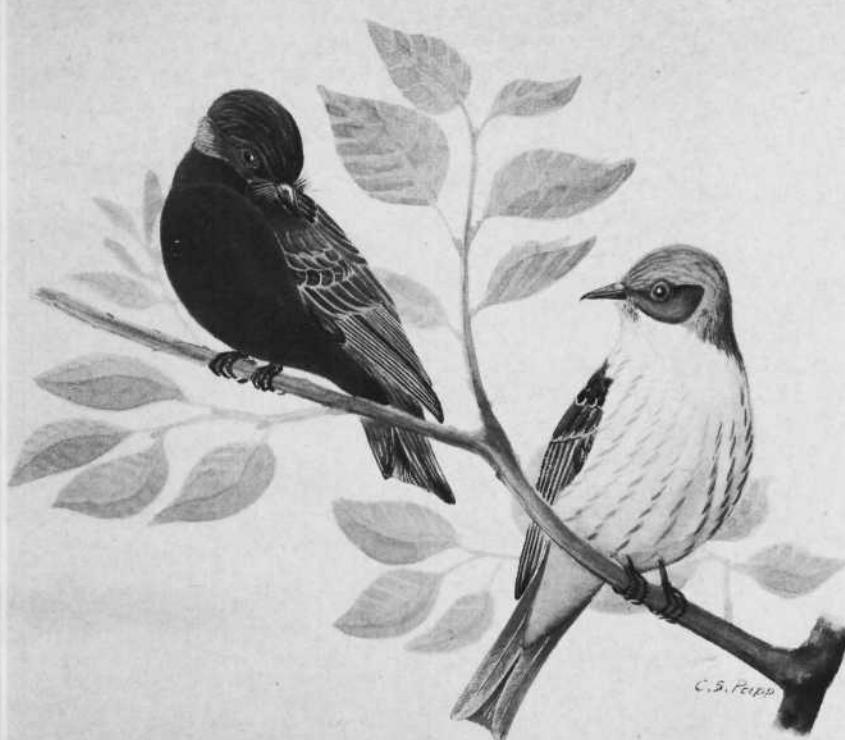
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VERMILION FLYCATCHER



Male Vermilion Flycatcher (left) has head and underparts of red; his mate is somber by comparison.

By EDMUND C. JAEGER

THE MALE Vermilion Flycatcher (sometimes called "Scarlet Tyrant") is "color-king" of the Southwestern deserts. When it comes to beauty and engaging manner, it has but one near-rival, the male Cardinal. Whether you see the Vermilion Flycatcher mounted atop a low bordering bush in a streamside grass pasture, or flying about in a mesquite, cottonwood or willow tree, this bird is certain to enhance the beauty of the day. He dazzles the eye with the red brilliance of his sleek coat of feathers; the gray-brown of his back, and the brown of his across-the-eye stripe only accentuate the beauty of the head and underparts. And to make matters even better, the human observer usually can approach quite close to this bird.

This well-mannered little flycatcher spends many moments between flights patiently perching at the tip of some low shrub, generally found well out in the open. He flies with considerable deliberation in the typical phoebe fashion. These flights are usually short low sallies that carry him outward to nip some flying insect then

back again to his observation post.

The Vermilion Flycatcher spends his summers in our southernmost deserts, some moving northward even to the borders of Death Valley, into southern parts of Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Utah and Nevada. A few also winter in the U.S., but most spend the winters below our southern border. Best places for us to view and study the habits of this engaging tyrannid are in the willow and cottonwood thickets along the Colorado River from Needles and Yuma southward, or along the Gila or San Pedro rivers in Arizona.

Some years ago, Lee Smith of the Camp Cady Ranch on the Mojave River invited me to spend a couple of days at his place. There I was able to observe these remarkable birds in what Smith described as one of their desert "outpost stations." He said this "colony" of flycatchers nested each year on the edge of a streamlet, with its border of honey mesquites and screwbeans, and open spaces so favored by these birds.

Later I visited Tecopa, just east

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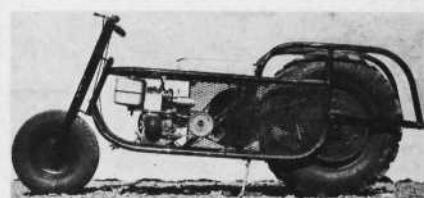
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of Death Valley. By good fortune I came upon another Vermilion Flycatcher "island colony" at the old China Ranch, that charming place of many springs and grass-and-tree greenery in the midst of the brown desert. As far as I can learn, this is the most northern nesting outpost in California of this desert-loving tyrannid.

It was early April, and the birds were preparing their nests. The males were giving their flight-songs: *pitt-a-see*, *pitt-a-see*, and making frequent nervous flights from one cottonwood tree to another while snapping up insects.

It is during the courting that we see the male bird at his very best. Writing of the South American subspecies, W. H. Hudson, in his *Birds of La Plata*, thus describes this period in the Vermilion Flycatcher's display:

"The male selects a spot for the nest, a fork in a tree from 6 to 12 feet from the ground, or sometimes a horizontal bough. This spot the male visits about once a minute, sits on it with his splendid crest elevated, tail spread out, and wings incessantly fluttering, while he pours out a continuous stream of silvery gurgling notes, so low they can scarcely be heard 20 paces off, and somewhat resembling the sound of water running from a narrow-necked flask, but more musical and infinitely more rapid.

"Of the little bird's homely, gray, silent mate the observer will scarcely obtain a glimpse, she appearing as yet to take little interest in the affairs that so much occupy the attention of her consort, and keep him in a state of violent excitement. He is exceedingly pugnacious, so that when not fluttering on the site of his future nest, or snapping up some insect on the wing, he is eagerly pursuing other males, apparently bachelors, from tree to tree.

"At intervals he repeats his remarkable little song, composed of a succession of sweetly modulated trills uttered on the wing. The bird usually mounts upwards from 30 to 40 yards, and, with wings very much raised and rapidly vibrating, rises and drops almost perpendicularly half a yard's space five or six times, appearing to keep time to his notes in these motions. This song he frequently utters in the night, but without leaving his perch; and it then has a most pleasing effect, as it's less hurried and the notes seem softer and more prolonged than when uttered by day."

All of the nests of our local birds which I have seen were placed incon-

spicuously and snugly in the forks of horizontal branches of cottonwood, mesquite or paloverde trees from 5 to 20 feet above ground, but W. Leon Dawson tells of nests located as much as 40 and even 60 feet above ground.

Few bird's nests are built of a greater variety of materials. One I saw last May was made up of twigs, down, feathers and several kinds of plant fibers, with an inner-lining of hair and feathers—all bound firmly together and anchored to the tree limb with spider web. The outside of the nest was decorated with bark-colored lichens and somber-colored feathers, probably for purposes of at least partial concealment.

The eggs of the Vermilion Flycatcher have a lusterless ground color of white to cream or even buff, with a decoration of sepia to clove-brown markings, some fine, some coarse, and usually concentrated near the larger end. The average clutch consists of three eggs, although sets of two or four are not uncommon. Often two sets are laid and hatched in a season. The somber-colored female is the chief brooder. It is the business of the flashing-colored male to bring in food, and defend the nest against intruders.

After 12 or 13 days, the young appear; another two weeks and they are ready to leave the nest. Before winter comes they undergo two moltings. It is when the birds get their winter feathers that we begin to definitely see the marked difference between the male and female feather adornment. It is not until the following autumn (i.e., at the end of a more-than-a-year period) that the full adult plumage is present with all of the male's brilliant coloring.

The families of parents and young remain about the feeding grounds all summer, but when autumn comes most of the birds begin to move to their ancestral winter homes far to the south. There are always a few that choose to winter in northern Sonora.

Among this bird's few known enemies (other than little boys with slingshots) is the Dwarf Cowbird which sometimes lays an egg in the Flycatcher's small nest. Nests so parasitized are often deserted; a new one is built and another set of eggs laid.

The Vermilion Flycatcher's diet is one chiefly, if not wholly, of insects, bees, flies and small beetles caught on the wing. Insects as large as grasshoppers may be picked up off the ground, and after being beaten up, eaten at leisure. //

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WIEGHORST

(continued from page 19)

when he painted merely "on order"; that it dulled his artistic creativeness.

So most of his material was fresh and original, bearing the stamp of the enthusiasm and the great technical skill which had become twin ingredients in the Wieghest paintings.

He sensed, though, that he needed to be in the geographical region which formed the core and the essence of the subjects he wanted to paint—the cowboys, the cow horses, stampeding cattle—all the scenes of the Western frontiers.

But, in the meantime he kept faithfully at his job training the horses for the Police Department and continually winning new laurels in competition. Time, as it has a habit of doing, was passing. Five, 10, 15, and then 20 years slipped away while Olaf was on the force. Suddenly he realized that he was eligible for a pension. This opened the door to new adventures. It made possible the realization of the dream to go West. He applied for retirement and it was granted.

Thus in 1944 while he was still a relatively young man in the full vigor of his life, Olaf Wieghest was at liberty to go out and paint the scenes which had so intrigued his imagination during his two decades of service in New York.

He and his wife and their son Roy headed for California via Florida in a travel trailer.

They traveled, of course, through some of the scenes which Olaf had stored up in his memory as a young man in the cavalry and on the cattle ranges. But their immediate destination was Southern California and they pressed on. They came to the little community of El Cajon nestling in its beautiful valley just out of San Diego, and found there the kind of scenes which they had been seeking. They settled down in a trailer park and Olaf began to paint. In those days there were plenty of cattle ranches emblematic of the pastoral age in California and of the era when the Spanish and Mexican vaqueros were recognized as among the greatest horsemen in the world.

For the first time Olaf was able to devote his full time to painting. He went on sketching and painting trips all through the region which still abounded in such glorious outdoor panoramas that it seemed im-

possible for him to encompass it all on canvas.

The opportunity came too for trips to Montana, Wyoming, and Texas, in addition to his beloved New Mexico and Arizona country.

Nostalgic memories caused him to head for Roswell, New Mexico. There he found his old crony, Sergeant Justin (Buck) Jones, and Jones grabbed him in a great embrazo and exclaimed: "By God, it's old Ole!" The two went lion hunting "just like old times in Mexico."

On this trip Ole visited the Blue Front Saloon in Glenwood and found some of his paintings still there, and the sign of a "horse painting" done with a hot running iron on an old barn in the midst of the range country.

Back in his home grounds at El Cajon, Olaf spent his excess energy in building a beautiful adobe home. Then progress began to come to the San Diego area and people moved in around him so that he had neighbors too close. He had his wife and

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A Wieghorst pen and ink sketch of an Indian head.

Roy went up into the hills and picked out a beautiful site amidst giant boulders overlooking the whole valley. They dug and scraped until they got a level place for a house, and

did the same thing down the hill a ways so that Olaf could have a studio with a window looking out towards the region he had come to like so much. Right below the studio was a

big corral where he kept riding horses.

In these surroundings Olaf's paintings began to take on the stature of maturity. He had come to a point where his talent was being recognized all over the United States. His shows were thronged—from those down in Dallas and Fort Worth, to the Grand Central Galleries in New York, and many other leading art establishments.

His biggest problem began to be turning out enough paintings to meet the demand. In fact, it was impossible for him to do so for he refused to be hurried—to produce on a wholesale basis. He had set his own high standards, and he was determined to live up to them.

In the midst of turning out the kind of painting he liked, he also had time to begin to think about some things he wanted to produce from the historical standpoint. It has become his ambition to create a monumental series on the United States Cavalry, harking back to the days when he had ridden with the old Fifth and had traded pot-shots across the Rio Grande with the Pancho Villa troopers.

As he looks out from his studio window while maintaining his busy schedule, Olaf can view his horses and the California scenery stretching in the distance. In his mind's eye he can see all this time the splendid cow horses and wild steers of the great ranges as well as the reality of the present scene.

His is a blending of fact and spirit—that indefinable something which the great artist adds to flesh and blood and nature to infuse with his own genius.

Olaf Wieghorst has become the true artist—and who can, in reality, define that? //



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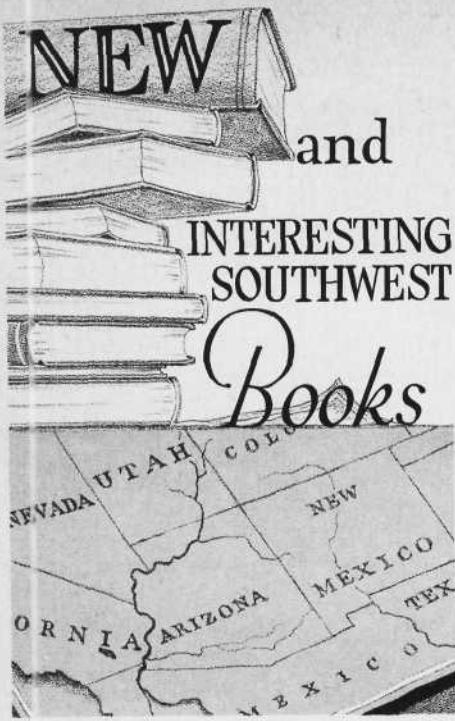
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in length, and carries a small colored map as an end-fold.

For those who might travel in Arizona or New Mexico this summer, and who may wonder about the Navajo rug business that takes place along the roadside or at various craft shops or trading posts, a new paperback (our review is all paperback this month, so you can economize for that family vacation) titled *THE STORY OF NAVAJO WEAVING* by Kate Peck Kent, might serve as a worthwhile introductory volume.

Though authoritative, *NAVAJO WEAVING* is not stultified with dull technical talk. It is, at best a brief review of the history of rug weaving, and complements its history with a chapter on "Contemporary Navaho Weaving," a chapter on "What to Look for in a Navaho Rug and the Future of Navaho Weaving," and a glossary of terms.

The booklet is illustrated with some classic blanket types, but doesn't help the rug buyer at the lower levels, most of the illustrations being collector-item rugs or blankets.

There are 52 pages in the book, which sells for \$1.50.

And, just to finish off, and for the camper who is an advanced and versatile rock-hounder, there's a new paperback, *FOS-SILS*, by William H. Matthews, III. It's just the thing for the off-the-highway camper who has a hobby of searching for evidence of prehistoric life among the shales and sedimentaries of Utah, Wyoming, or New Mexico.

The 338-page guide, an "Everyday Handbook," includes paragraphs about the origin of fossils, their collection, preparation and uses, bibliography, lists of dealers and museums and charts and drawings—some 180 of the latter.

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—Charles E. Shelton

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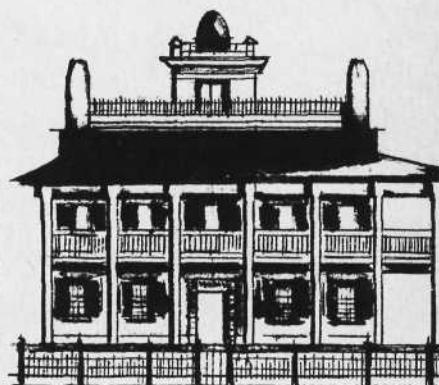
FAMILY CAMPING shows how to attach car racks, how to stow duffel and cartons, how to select tents and sleeping bags, and how to dress. The book even provides a check list for camp foods and equipment. It's so easy to do-it-yourself after Sunset has done it all for you! *FAMILY CAMPING* costs \$1.75, has 128 pages, and many illustrations.

To add to your camping-wanderings, there are three new paperbacks that recently came to my attention. One is *FIVE HUNDRED UTAH PLACE NAMES*, by Rufus Wood Leigh.

A conveniently small booklet, the name guide tells where the various geographical points are located and how come they are called whatever monikers they bear today. Anyone touring Utah will find his visit enriched as he reads of the origin of 500 of the Utah names.

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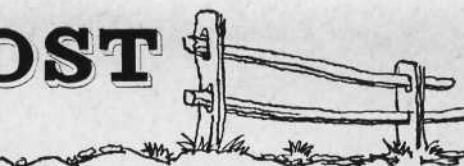
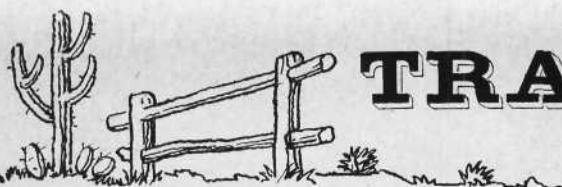
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"GEMS & Minerals Magazine," largest rock hobby monthly. Field trips, "how" articles, pictures, ads. \$3 year. Sample 25c. Box 687J, Mentone, California.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Magazines, 1888-1961, any issue, maps, bound volumes. Free literature, "Geographic Hobby," price lists, circulars on books about collecting geographics. Periodical Service, Box 465-DE, Wilmington, Del.

"DEATH VALLEY Scotty Told Me" by Eleanor Jordan Houston. A ranger's wife recalls her friendship with the famous desert rat and some of his fabulous stories. \$1.50. A. F. Houston, Box 305, Coolidge, Arizona.

THOUSANDS OF out-of-print books in stock, especially fiction. Murray's Bookfinding Service, 115 State Street, Springfield 3, Mass.

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WANTED: ARIZONA Highways, 1938—February, March, May; 1936—January, February, March, June; 1935—August; 1934—January, June. Also older issues. Wilma Elmer, 410 B. Forestal, China Lake, California.

116 MISCELLANEOUS copies: Desert and Arizona Highways; back to 1941, sell or trade. John Huges, 2595 Massachusetts, Lemon Grove, California.

CAMPING ILLUSTRATED, The Monthly Magazine for all Campers, special introductory offer \$2.50 year (12 issues). Send your subscription now, be billed later. Camping Illustrated, Suite 815, 1122 Fourth Avenue, San Diego 1, California.

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DESERT MAGAZINES: November 1937 to date. National Geographic magazines, 1957 to and including 1961. Excellent condition. \$100. L. Pask, Box 1122, Brawley, California.

LEARN ABOUT gems from Handbook of Gems and Gemology. Written especially for amateur, cutter, collector. Tells how to identify gems. \$3 plus tax. Gemac Corporation, Box 808J, Mentone, California.

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WANTED: ESTABLISHED shop to handle Navajo rugs, jewelry, on consignment. Must have knowledge Indian material or willing to learn. Unimpeachable references necessary. Box 972, Santa Cruz.

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(continued)

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FOR SALE: three room modern stucco house on commercial acre, trees, lawn. Ideal for retired couple. Price \$6500. Call or write: V. Beckman, 36632 98th Street, Little Rock, Calif.

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FOR SALE: bare desert land, 60 acres located in Hinkley Valley, California. Write: Derditch, 828 Hyde Park, Chicago 15, Illinois.

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DUPLICATE COUPON. See ad on page 39

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DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED

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ARCHIE'S ACRES. Antiques, sun colored glass. No price list. Come and see! 11501 Davenport Road, Agua Dulce, California. WI 7-4941.

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PLASTIC EMBEDDING for fun and profit, no oven. Make beautiful jewelry, decorative panels, science specimen castings. Catalog 25¢, Natcol Plastics, Box 444, Yucaipa, Calif.

SOUR DOUGH biscuit recipe and full directions \$1. Dutchoven or modern baking. Revive the lost art. Franks Murdock, Dalhart, Texas.

Southwest Calendar

May 1-2: World Championship Inboard Boat Races, Parker, Ariz.

May 5: Cinco de Mayo celebrations at Nogales and other Mexican border towns.

May 5-6, 12-13: Ramona Pageant, Hemet, Calif.

May 5-6: Bear Festival, Idyllwild, Calif.

May 5-6: Palmdale, Calif., Gem-Mineral Show.

May 5-28: Julian, Calif., Flower Show (see page 38).

May 14: Lake Mead Yacht Club Flotilla.

May 19-21: Las Vegas Helldorado.

May 25-27: Annual Mexican Hat, Utah, "Fly-In Tour of Monument Valley," for both fliers and motorists. Full details and reservations from Mexican Hat Chamber of Commerce.

May 26-27: Lone Pine, Calif., Stampede.

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FROM YOUR favorite color slide or print, let me do a beautiful oil painting for your home. Desert, mountains, canyons, or lakes. Any size. Guaranteed to please. Reasonable. Write: Box 325, Clearfield, Utah.

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RECOVER LOST coins, diamonds, gold rings, keys, etc. on beaches. Saves gold, diamonds, platinum. Blueprint "The Beachcomber" with coin trap. \$3.50. Barney Lee, 622 Van Patten, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico.

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Six-month-old hybrid
Height: 9 ft.; spread: 8 1/2 ft.;
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Just Between You and Me



By RANDALL HENDERSON

ONE OF THE letters which came to me recently was from a man who had reached the retirement age and wanted to spend his late years somewhere beyond the hurry and confusion of life in the "human ant hill," as he described the city where he lived.

He was quite specific. He thought perhaps I could tell him where there was a little cabin many miles away from the nearest paved road, preferably in a canyon where there was plenty of water and shade, and perhaps a little placer gold in the sand where he could pan it out "like the '49ers did." He wanted a mild climate, not too hot in summer, and plenty of wood for the fireplace. He hoped there would be a little meadow where he could pasture his horse. He thought the location should be somewhere on the desert, for the dry air would be good for his arthritis, and there would be no danger of being snowed in during the winter.

How would you answer such a letter? Well, I wanted to write him that he should have addressed his letter to St. Peter—for there might be such a place in heaven. Actually, I reminded him as courteously as I could that if there were such idyllic places on the Great American Desert, they long ago would have been homesteaded and converted to dude ranches.

I receive many letters written in this vein, although not always as exacting in detail. There are many city dwellers who dream of a little cabin-home in the wild-woods—away from the increasing tensions, and the regimentation which is inevitable where large numbers of humans live in close association with each other.

I can understand this desire on the part of people past middle age to retreat from the pressures of congested metropolitan areas, to the serenity of a rural environment. Unfortunately, due partly to increasing population, and partly to the continuing encroachment of civilized technology, the opportunities for escape from the industrial complex are steadily shrinking.

It is in recognition of these circumstances that I have become an advocate of the Wilderness Act now pending in the House of Representatives. The measure was passed by the Senate in the closing days of the late session of the Congress by a vote of 78 to 8. But its fate remains uncertain in the House because there is arrayed against it vigorous opposition from the lumbering, mining, petroleum and grazing interests.

This measure, which would include approximately 15,000,000 acres now designated as wild, wilderness or primitive areas in the national forests, and 22,300,000

acres now in the national parks and monuments, would reserve these areas, as defined in the Act, for "recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation and historical use . . . (and) all such use shall be in harmony, both in kind and degree, with the wilderness environment and with its preservation."

It is true this land would not be available for a cabin-site such as my correspondent dreamed about. It would remain closed to the building of roads other than for maintenance purposes, and to all commercial exploitation. In every Western state there would be limited areas of virgin forest belonging to all the people of the nation, where wildlife would remain unharmed and both young and old Americans would find the beauty and solitude which are more essential to spiritual growth and true happiness than are speed, push-button gadgets and television.

I recall some passages in the book *My Wilderness*, written by Justice William O. Douglas: "Man must be able to escape civilization if he is to survive. Some of his greatest needs are for refuges and retreats where he can re-capture for a day or a week the primitive conditions of life . . . Only two percent or so of our land area remains in a roadless, wilderness state. Most of this is in the public domain—parts of national forests, national parks, wildlife refuges and Indian reservations. It is roughly estimated at 55 million acres, which, divided up among all our people, averages about one-third acre each. The residue of wilderness in America has reached a minimum which all who love trails and peaks must now defend.

"I realize after my day's journey how badly we need high alpine meadows which can only be reached on foot, how badly we need peaks which can only be conquered by daring. The passion to bring 'civilization' into our wilderness areas is one sign that we Americans are getting soft and flabby. We want everything made easy. Yet success is worth having only when it comes through great effort and hazardous exertion.

"The logistics of abundance call for mass production. This means the ascendancy of the machine. The risk of man's becoming subservient to it is great. The struggle of our time is to maintain an economy of plenty and yet keep man's freedom intact. Roadless areas are one pledge to freedom. With them intact, man need not become an automaton. There he can escape the machine and become once more a vital individual. If these inner sanctuaries are invaded by the machine, there is no escape. For men and civilization will be molded by mass compulsions. If our wilderness areas are preserved, every person will have a better chance to maintain his freedom by allowing his idiosyncrasies to flower under the influence of the wonders of the wilderness . . ."



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Wilton Hoy Photo

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- Visit many points of interest known to guide now in 24th year of experience on the Colorado.
- Fairest warning—Flood gates on GLEN CANYON DAM are due to be closed in OCTOBER 1962—which begins the inundation of hundreds of beauty spots and side canyons, far more beautiful than those in the GRAND CANYON, or the Fjords of Norway.
- Boat fare: \$85. Air fare: \$17.
- \$25 check reserves your passage.
- 100% refundable if cancelled.
- \$5 fare credit for identifying the above photo locale.
- Write for information on our 4th FAR NORTH RIVERS EXPEDITION, "down North" to the Arctic on the magnificent Mackenzie for 1025 miles.
- Come—Visit Lands of Great Beauty.

LARABEE AND ALESON
WESTERN RIVER TOURS
Richfield, Utah

WILDFLOWERS

(continued from page 21)

Providence and New York ranges are rich in flora and should repay side trips in May and June. Good headquarters for these desert mountain flowers is Mitchells Caverns State Park in the Providences (22 miles north of Essex), for larkspurs, Kennedy mariposas, purple sage, Mojave aster, paintbrush, cliff rose.

4. *Afton-Crone* — There should be lilies here in May, as well as asters, evening primrose and sand verbena. In general, little rain east of Barstow (Highway 91) was reported.

5. *Central Mojave*—South, west and north of Barstow, hills are tinted green. Bright prospects for Mojave asters and Kennedy mariposas on slopes north of Barstow and west Calicos; dandelion, blazing star, phacelias, pincushion, asters, larkspur, lupin, mallow, suncup evening primrose in little canyons and north slopes in Fossil Beds area; gillas, yellow and white evening primroses, owls flower, verbena, dandelion, larkspur in Harper Dry Lake area; aster, desert plume, phacelia, coreopsis, poppies, peppergrass, white tidy tips, paintbrush and others in Opal and Black Mts., and Desert Candle (Squaw Cabbage) north end of Black Mt.

6. *Four Corners*—Desert Candle nearly always along these roads, and especially north, if sheep have not grazed; Joshua trees south of here in Kramer Hills may still be blooming.

7. *Rand-Red Mountain Area* — Usually Mojave aster, thistle sage, apricot mallow, and if sheep or cattle have not grazed, gillas, owls flower, mariposas (look for these on north slope of El Paso Mts.).

8. *Death Valley Mountains*—Bloom should be average to above-average in Panamint Mts. and side canyons of Death Valley from 3000 to 4500 foot levels from mid-April to May 1, and above 4500 after May 1. Expected species: Park Naturalist Bill Bullard expects bluepod rock cress, locos, Mojave desert-rue, Salazaria, sweetleaf wildrose, lupins, desert columbine, paintbrush, mariposa, desert plume, Panamint daisy. In and above Wildrose Canyon check for Panamint daisy, wildrose, purple sage and golden rabbitbrush.

9. *Western Mojave* — In Palmdale-Lancaster-Hi Vista area, February rains carpeted the ground, and peak blooms came in April, but some species still may be blooming on the level and many on the north slopes and up adjacent canyons in May. Harriet F. Stebbins predicts bloom will center in and around Phacelia Wildflower Sanctuary, Butte Valley Wildflower Sanctuary, Joshua Trees State Park and Theodore Payne Wild Life Sanctuary (east of Llano): deep-purple sandverbena, vari-

ous primroses, coreopsis, dandelion, birds-eye gilia, owl's flower, purple sage, apricot mallow, desert candle, pink verbena, phacelia, paintbrush, spectacle pod, and many others.

10. *Lancaster West of Highway 6*—Flower artist-expert Jane Pinheiro sees much May bloom if continued cold weather does not stunt luxuriant growth. Poppies started in early April, 20 miles west, in Fairmont area; much royal-purple desert lupin expected "pretty well all over the valley," also more profuse than usual, mariposa, brodiaea, wild onion, zygadine, golden brodiaea, muilla. West on Highway 138 to Gorman, a good area for Venusta mariposa, golden brodiaea, California poppies, coreopsis, monardella, various lupins and phacelias. Quartz Hill area: poppies, baby lupin, gilia, primroses, phacelias. Oak Creek Pass road to Tehachapi: Kennedy mariposa, many kinds of gillas, lupin, poppy, owl's flower, baby-blue-eyes, coreopsis, phacelia, loco.

11. *Indian Wells Valley* — Prospects are bright for colorful display, with slopes turned green by February and budding started in early March. "Better than normal" was predicted by Joe Fox of Ridgecrest.

12. *Owens Valley*—Both flowers and the Lone Pine Stampede on May 26-27 will attract many to Owens Valley, says John M. Aitchison, president of Southern Inyo Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Mary DeDecker of Independence says flowers will be in surprising variety in lava country around Little Lake in April (thistle sage, brodiaea, Bigelow mimulus, royal-desert lupin, violet gilia), and around Haiwee in early May (Kennedy mariposa and others, if visitors walk a little distance from highway). May, with June a close second, is best month for flowers in Owens Valley, but best displays are away from highway. For those with very limited time, best place probably will be in Alabama Hills west of Lone Pine: gillas, phacelias, pincushions, brodiaeas, daisies, Acton encelia, goldenhead, paintbrush, apricot mallow, larkspur, beautiful Adonis lupin. Mrs. DeDecker recommends following roads leading up to canyons on both sides of the valley, flowers on the eastern or more desert side usually being brighter in color.

Julian (south of our map area on Hwy. 78 near Anza-Borrego State Park) is the setting for the oldest and longest-running wildflower show I know. The 36th annual show will be held here May 5-28 inclusive, 9:30 to 6 p.m. Desert, valley and mountain species, from elevations 1000-6000 feet, will be exhibited. The array (this was a wet year there) will include ocotillo, cactus, scarlet bugler, mallows, indigo, verbena, sages, lupins, Fremontia, mimulus, pentstemons, wild lilacs, yucca and manzanita. //

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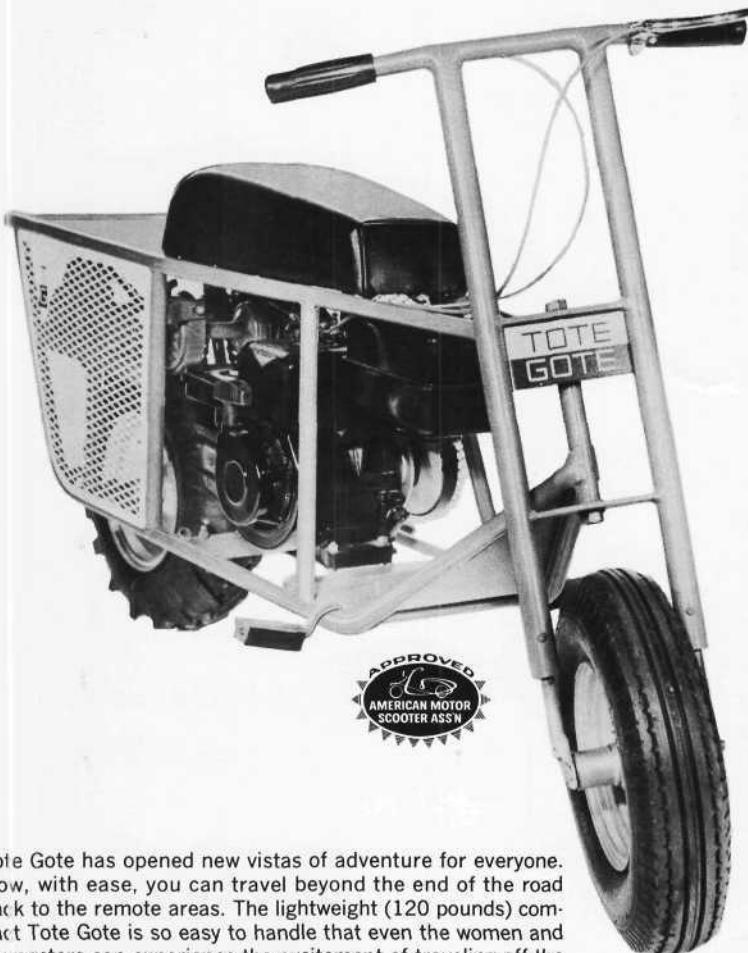


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